

Budget over hurdle, now goes to House

By AVI TEMKIN
Post Economic Reporter

After weeks of wrangling in which cabinet members attempted to protect their respective fiefdoms from massive budget cuts, the 1984 budget of IS4.35 trillion will be presented to the Knesset tomorrow.

The Ministerial Economic Committee yesterday approved the budget bill proposed by Finance Minister Yigal Cohen-Orgad, including his request to enable the Treasury to adjust its spending every three months. The committee's approval made possible for the Treasury to announce that it will present the budget tomorrow. Cohen-Orgad will leave for the U.S. on Sunday for a two-day visit, during which he will talk with American officials about Israel's economic situation.

According to the committee's decision the budget will be adjusted every three months according to the rate of inflation, the state of government revenue and the state of employment.

The first of these points means that the Treasury will adjust the nominal sum so as to leave the real value of the budget constant. Thus an increase in inflation would mean an upward adjustment.

The second point calls for a reduction in spending if there is a jump in tax revenue. Since this possibility is being envisaged, it is possible that the Finance Ministry will demand a reduction in expenditure during the year.

The third criterion calls for increased spending if unemployment rises during the year, to what the government considers unacceptable levels.

The only voice of opposition came from Energy Minister Yitzhak Moda'i, during the committee

meeting, who demanded that the quarterly adjustment be considered each time by the cabinet prior to its presentation at the Knesset Finance Committee.

Cohen-Orgad and all the other ministers at the meeting opposed such a proposal, since it would mean a constant debate at the cabinet about the budget. At the end it was decided to reject Moda'i's proposal.

In addition to the committee's approval, Cohen-Orgad reached an agreement with Labour and Social Affairs Minister Aharon Uzan on a large part of the IS4 billion to be cut from Uzan's budget, the last such dispute to be resolved.

According to reports last night, most of the cuts will concern the National Insurance Institute. It will entail taxing children's allowances for families whose main breadwinners are in the 45 per cent income bracket and up, instead of the 50-per-cent bracket at present.

NII payments for reserve duty will be reduced for persons in high-income brackets. Seniority allowances from the NII will also be reduced.

Gad Ya'acobi, Alignment, chairman of the Knesset Economic Committee, said that the budget will contain a deficit which will be double the size of the current one, and that inflation may reach 300 per cent during the year, mainly as a consequence of the government's action.

After getting the committee's approval for the budget bill, Cohen-Orgad met with Bank of Israel Governor Moshe Mandelbaum for the first of a series of meetings on monetary policy for the coming months. Although no new measures were discussed, the participants decided to continue the current policy of credit restraint.



Italian paratroopers march towards a troop transport as the Italian contingent of the multinational force leaves Beirut yesterday. (UPI telephoto)

IDF denies taking part in Beirut-area fighting

BEIRUT. — The Lebanese army fought a two-hour battle with anti-government militias in mountains overlooking Beirut overnight.

Meanwhile, Christian-controlled radio stations claimed last night an Israeli invasion of Moslem West Beirut was under way through beachheads established on the coast south of the U.S. Marine base behind gunboat bombardment just before sundown.

But western reporters who rushed to allegedly bombarded seafloor neighbourhoods said there was no naval shelling and no Israeli gunboats were seen off the coast.

The Christian stations later retracted the report and spokesmen for the Israeli liaison office in Christian East Beirut's suburb of Dbayeh issued an official denial.

Earlier, Lebanon's state-run television and the Druze "Voice of the Mountain Radio" both reported that an Israeli military column had crossed Israeli lines at the Awali River in South Lebanon and moved north to within six kilometres of militia-held territory on the coast south of Beirut.

In Tel Aviv, an Israeli army spokesman denied the reports. Later, Beirut Radio said another Israeli column of 42 armoured vehicles and 25 trucks loaded with ammunition was advancing north along an inland road into the Druze-held Shuf Mountains.

Meanwhile, Italy's 1,400-man contingent rolled out of its peacekeeping zone in West Beirut's Sabra and Shatilla Palestinian (Continued on Page 2, Col. 4)

Saudis try some more diplomacy

By DAVID BERNSTEIN
Post Mideast Affairs Reporter
and agencies

Fighting appeared to give way to diplomacy in Lebanon yesterday, as Saudi Arabia intensified its mediation efforts in Beirut and Damascus.

According to Lebanese state radio, President Amr Jemayel ordered Foreign Minister Elias Salem to cut short a trip to Washington and return to Beirut urgently to continue talks with key Saudi mediator Rafik Hariri, reportedly back in the Lebanese capital last night.

Hariri was erroneously reported to have returned to Beirut on Saturday, with Syrian counter-proposals to the eight-point plan rejected by Syria over the weekend.

It now emerges, however, that he returned to Riyadh from Damascus, if the Beirut Radio report is correct, and has only now arrived in Beirut.

Salem was sent to Washington, along with Jemayel's national security adviser Wadhi Haddad, apparently to sound out the Americans on further support following the rejection of the plan drawn up by Jemayel and mediated by the Saudis.

Also yesterday, Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah bin Abdul-Aziz flew to Damascus for talks with President Hafez Assad, in an apparent bid to continue Saudi mediation efforts despite the failure of Foreign Minister Saud al-Faisal's mission to Damascus over the weekend.

It is not clear what the Saudis hope to achieve through their two-pronged mediation effort in Beirut and Damascus. The Syrian-backed Druze and Shi'ite opposition leaders are now more determined than ever that Jemayel must resign as a precondition for a peaceful settlement in Lebanon.

"This is an irrevocable demand," the normally mild and somewhat hesitant Shi'ite leader Nabih Berri was quoted as saying in Damascus yesterday after a six-hour meeting he and Druze leader Walid Jumblatt held with Syrian Foreign Minister Abdul-Halim Khaddam.

Berri said in a press conference with Jumblatt in Damascus last night that opposition militias would depose Jemayel by force if he did not resign voluntarily.

Berri admitted that the Shi'ites and Druze were coordinating moves with the PLO, but claimed that the PLO agreed that there was no need for a Palestinian armed presence in Lebanon.

Damascus has yet to publicly endorse the opposition leaders' demand for Jemayel's resignation — a position that now probably owes more to Syria's desire to preserve an illusion of neutrality concerning an internal Lebanese problem, than to its earlier apparent preference to maintain Jemayel in power as a malleable puppet.

The indications are that Damascus has now more or less resigned itself to a Lebanon without Jemayel, and is probably now prepared to let its Druze and Shi'ite allies seek his ouster militarily by pressing forward with their attack on Suk al-Gharb and the presidential palace in Baabda — unless the 11th-hour Saudi mediation effort now under way can deliver Jemayel, properly trusted and bound, as a hostage to Syria's overall strategic designs in Lebanon.

This would require a willingness on Jemayel's part to revise the two items in the eight-point plan Damascus found so objectionable — the call for a simultaneous withdrawal of Israeli and Syrian troops from Lebanon, and security safeguards for Israel in Southern Lebanon.

If Jemayel is unwilling to grasp this particular nettle, Damascus is likely to give the Druze and their (Continued on Page 7)

Shamir at Brussels EC talks: We'll stay in Lebanon until security certain

Jerusalem Post Staff
and agencies

BRUSSELS. — Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir told the West German and French foreign ministers here yesterday that UN peacekeeping forces in Southern Lebanon are not adequate protection for Israel, and that until protection is guaranteed, Israeli forces will remain in Southern Lebanon.

Shamir, who arrived in Brussels on Sunday night, told both Hans Dietrich Genscher and Claude Cheysson, the German and French ministers, that UN troops "are not forces which can guarantee the security of Israel." Meanwhile, Shamir was scheduled to discuss Israel's widening trade deficit with the European Community, particularly in the context of the impending acceptance of Spain and Portugal by the EC, at a meeting with all EC foreign ministers last night.

The EC has agreed to extend by two years the deadline for implementing the industrial products agreement with Israel. Israel Radio reported last night from Brussels. Israel would have to abolish customs tariffs on industrial products from EC countries once the agreement is implemented.

The EC also agreed to extend by two years the deadline for lowering custom tariffs which protect new and sensitive industries in Israel. These points are to be included in a joint statement today prior to the conclusion of Shamir's visit here.

Israel's deficit, Shamir's spokesman Avi Pazner said, was

51.7 billion last year. Israel exports 70 per cent of its farm products, notably citrus fruits, to the EC and fears that these exports will decline with the scheduled accession to the EC of Spain and Portugal on January 1, 1986.

"We are not asking for any favours but for guarantees that the European Community will not close its markets to us," Shamir said yesterday.

The EC foreign ministers agreed to tell Shamir that their present farm and financial problems prevent them from promising Israel anything, an official said.

They will explain to Shamir that they are going through a period of transition which should result in a reform of their common agriculture policy.

Shamir, who is to return to Israel tomorrow after a short visit to The Hague, met first with Cheysson and later with Genscher at a chateau in suburban Brussels. He is due to meet with Cheysson, again today.

Shamir and Cheysson, he added, discussed the presence of UN peacekeeping troops in Lebanon.

Shamir told Cheysson that Israel does not view these troops in Southern Lebanon "as an adequate answer" to Israeli security concerns in the region. "Those are not fighting forces," he said.

"What we need are troops that can hold back the Palestine Liberation Organization."

Genscher and Shamir met for more than an hour. The meeting was friendly, Pazner said.

He said Shamir asked Europe to prevent a massacre in Lebanon and (Continued on Page 2, Col. 2)

IS900,000 by air, or IS5,700 by foot

Post Defence Reporter

TEL AVIV. — The food a soldier eats costs the Israel Defence Forces some \$71,000 a year and every M16 bullet he fires costs IS20.50.

This emerged from a report published by the IDF yesterday. Prices were calculated as of January, 1984.

It was also reported that a day's battle rations per soldier cost IS335, a lak jacket costs IS39,500, a helmet IS8,000, a pair of high boots IS5,700, and a day of hospitalization costs IS14,000.

The most expensive items reported were the F-15 fighter-bombers, which cost \$52 million and F-16s, at \$36m.

An hour's flight in an F-15 costs IS900,000. Flying the Kfir costs IS530,000 per hour.

A light helicopter's flight costs IS60,000 while the big helicopters cost \$200,000 per helicopter.

An hour's sail on a missile boat costs IS125,000, and if an M-60 tank just runs its engine for an hour without firing its guns the cost is IS38,500.

The price of one Merkava tank is IS125m., the report said.

Indian police told: Shoot rioters on sight

NEW DELHI (AP). — Police were ordered to shoot rioters on sight yesterday as the Sikh-Hindu violence spread closer to the Indian capital and the weekend casualty toll mounted to 31, authorities said. Prime Minister Indira Gandhi

ordered Haryana and Punjab State officials to deal firmly with rioters as a Hindu backlash against growing Sikh terrorism threatened to engulf much of densely-populated northern India. (See earlier story — Page 4)

Police said impotent in combating drug-smuggling

Post Knesset Correspondent

Interior Minister Yosef Burg yesterday was charged with making public statements about vigorous measures to prevent drugs from entering the country from Lebanon but failing to follow up with any practical steps.

The charge, reportedly continually aired by IDF officers serving in Lebanon, was quoted in the Knesset lobby yesterday by Labour MK Michael Bar-Zohar, after he had spent the previous day in Southern Lebanon with a Knesset subcommittee.

Bar-Zohar told reporters that the Israel Police had turned down all the IDF's requests for a more effective deployment to fight drug-smuggling.

He said the senior officers he met in Southern Lebanon had harsh words for the police's inaction with regard to drug-smuggling, its refusal to station units permanently at the

border crossings, its refusal to cooperate with the IDF on intelligence-gathering concerning drugs, and its refusal to carry out joint vehicle checks and assign veteran drug-hunters to duty in the North.

Bar-Zohar said that month by month hundreds of kilos of hashish enter Israel from Lebanon because of the apathy of the police. He quoted IDF officers as saying that Israeli soldiers bring in only a small amount of the contraband while the bulk is smuggled by Israeli and Lebanese civilians in mixed gangs, by bus and lorry drivers, or by Lebanese workers employed inside Israel. Lebanese civilians toss bags of hashish across the border fence at pre-determined rendezvous, he said he learned during his day in Lebanon.

Bar-Zohar requested an urgent debate on the issue.

Robert Rosenberg adds:

The police, on the other hand, have been quietly complaining the IDF is not doing enough to stem the flow of hashish into the country at sources in the area under its control.

Sources told *The Jerusalem Post* that "political considerations" have mitigated the army's ability to disrupt the flow. A key problem is that although army intelligence is aware of hashish being marketed in areas under Israeli control, both in South Lebanon and in that part of the Bekaa Valley controlled by the IDF, they are unwilling to act, the sources said.

Most of the drugs are destined for North Africa, via Israel, rather than for the Israeli market proper.

The sources said they have good cooperation, however, with the military police with whom they man border checkpoints to search out drugs.

U.S. sent out numerous feelers, but Arafat wouldn't budge

By WOLF BLITZER
Jerusalem Post Reporter

WASHINGTON. — Reagan administration officials yesterday were embarrassed by disclosure that former Secretary of State Alexander Haig had authorized an indirect dialogue with the PLO designed to elicit its involvement in the peace process.

The U.S. overture, reported in detail in *The New York Times* on Sunday, was but one of many similar efforts over the years to con-

vince PLO chairman Yasser Arafat to accept America's long-standing conditions for winning U.S. recognition — namely, the acceptance of UN Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 and of Israel's right to exist.

Since 1975 when then secretary of state Henry Kissinger first codified those conditions in the U.S.-Israeli memorandum of agreement that accompanied the Sinai II accord, Arafat has repeatedly refused to accept the U.S. demands. But that has

not prevented the Ford, Carter and Reagan administrations from undertaking intensive diplomatic efforts using private third parties to convince the PLO leader to chance his stance.

This most recent intermediary was John Edwin Mroz, a 35-year-old Middle East specialist who heads the New York-based East-West Institute, a private research centre. According to *The Times*, Mroz had more than 50 meetings with Arafat, totaling more than 400

hours, over a nine-month period. Haig authorized the secret channel, and had assistant secretary for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs Nicholas Veliotis serve as the contact with Mroz.

White House officials said President Reagan did not recall Haig's ever informing him of the PLO connection. Haig has been quoted as saying that he "probably mentioned" it to the president. National Security Adviser Robert McFarlane (Continued on Page 6)

Ambush near Sidon

Jerusalem Post Reporter

METULLA. — An IDF soldier was slightly injured yesterday when small arms fire was directed at an army convoy south of Sidon. A search for the attackers was conducted in a nearby orchard.

Also yesterday, a handgrenade was thrown at an IDF truck in Nabatiya. No one was hurt.

Chief rabbis oppose selective yeshiva grants

By HAIM SHAPIRO
Jerusalem Post Reporter

Government allocations to yeshivot should be distributed according to the sole criterion of the number of students in each yeshiva, the two chief rabbis told *The Jerusalem Post* in a special interview yesterday.

Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi Abraham Shapira and Sephardi Chief Rabbi Mordechai Eliahu concurred in an apparent attack on Agudat Yisrael special allocations to a few institutions favoured by MKs Menahem Porush and Shlomo Lorincz. But

the chief rabbis said they did not want to enter into a political discussion and refused to refer to Agudat Yisrael by name.

High Court Justice Eliezer Goldberg yesterday ordered Attorney-General Yitzhak Zamir to respond by today to an appeal by the Habad movement against listing each of the special allocations as a separate item in the new budget. It was reported yesterday.

Habad had earlier filed an appeal to the High Court of Justice against the system of special allocations. In order to circumvent the court ac-

tion, the Finance Ministry intended to list the allocations as separate budget items. Habad then filed a second appeal against the Treasury's move.

Meanwhile, the chief rabbis also complained bitterly that what they described as the pitiful amount of aid given to yeshiva students. Rabbi Eliahu said that yeshiva students should get as much or more than is allocated to university students, since Torah study is more important.

A full report of the interview will appear in *The Post* on Friday.

DAVID HACHOEN

is no more

The funeral will take place today, Tuesday, February 21, 1984 at 3 p.m. in the family burial ground at Binyamina.

The Family

The weather at major Swissair destinations

20.2.1984	MIN.	MAX.	C F C F
AMSTERDAM	-4	21	23 70
BRUSSELS	-2	26	28 80
CHICAGO	-22	72	28 82
COPTENHAGEN	-2	28	28 82
FRANKFURT	-8	18	4 64
GENEVA	-7	19	23 73
HONG KONG	-12	10	4 50
JOHANNESBURG	15	50	59 138
LONDON	-5	23	27 81
MADRID	8	46	46 115
MONTREAL	1	34	34 93
NEW YORK	5	41	43 109
OSLO	-2	28	28 82
PARIS	-2	28	28 82
RIO DE JANEIRO	21	70	70 158
SAO PAULO	18	94	64 131
STOCKHOLM	0	32	32 90
TOKYO	0	32	32 90
TORONTO	4	30	32 90
VERONA	-3	28	28 82
ZURICH	-7	19	23 73

For the latest weather conditions, contact Swissair.

THE WEATHER

Forecast: Partly Cloudy.

Forecast: Partly Cloudy.			
	Yesterday's Humidity	Yesterday's Min-Max	Today Max
Jerusalem	63	4-13	13
Golan	49	5-14	13
Nahariya			12
Safed	62	6-12	17
Haifa Port	60	13-18	18
Tiberias	47	7-17	18
Nazareth		9-17	16
Shomron	49	7-18	17
Tel Aviv	54	8-15	15
B-G Airport	54	11-18	18
Jericho		9-21	20
Gaza	46	8-21	22
Beersheba	61	9-17	17
Eilat	46	7-17	18
Ai	25	10-22	22

New TV-radio fees

Post Economic Reporter

The Knesset Finance Committee is today expected to approve an IS8,650 television and radio licence fee payable in three instalments: IS2,880 on April 1, a similar sum, linked to the index, on August 1, and IS2,890, also linked to the index, on December 1.

The authority also announced that it would enable payment through standing bank orders. In this case, the fee will be payable in instalments of IS1,440 each, with the last four payments linked to the index.

Licence, car fees

will be raised on March 1.

Fees for car registration and driving licences are to be hiked March 1, a spokesman for the Transport Ministry said yesterday. The hike is in line with a new policy of adjusting fees twice a year in accordance with the Consumer Price Index.

Car owners and drivers who are due to pay such fees this month are advised to do so before the end of February; otherwise, they will have to pay the new, higher fees.

Journalism programme at Tel Aviv University

TEL AVIV (Itim). — A journalism studies programme headed by Shalom Rosenfeld, former editor of *Ma'ariv*, was inaugurated on Sunday at Tel Aviv University. Thirty-four students are enrolled in the programme. Almost all have degrees in other subjects and some are working journalists.

Hapoel Haifa chalks up surprising win, 94-83

Post Sports Reporter

Hapoel Haifa sprang a surprise when they defeated Hapoel Afula in the first playoff games of the Israel National Basketball championship last night, 94-83.

The other three matches went true to form with the three favourites reporting crushing victories: Maccabi Tel Aviv 109, Maccabi Haifa 81.

Hapoel Tel Aviv 114, Hapoel Upper Galilee 85.

Hapoel Ramat Gan 93, Hapoel Holon 80.

The return matches will be played next week.

Emunah World Religious Zionist Women's Organization

Emunah National Religious Women's Organization — Jerusalem Branch

Emunah Jerusalem Council English-Speaking Chapters

Emunah —

Rabbanit Sarah Herzog ע"ה

Scholarship Fund

mourning the passing of

JENNY FINK ע"ה

and express their sincere condolences to the entire

Fink Family

המקום נחם אתכם בתוך שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים

Educational Centers of the Rabbinical Council of America

Yeshivat Hadarom

Rehovot

Gan Yavne Youth Village

Yeshivat Achuzat Yaakov

deeply mourn the passing of a true *aishet hayit*

JENNY FINK ע"ה

and extend sincere condolences to her children

Mrs. Bernard Hochstein, Dr. Reuven Fink

and the entire family.

המקום נחם אתכם בתוך שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים

Old City Arabs fear Hospice will be closed

By MICHAEL EILAN and MARGERY GREENFELD Jerusalem Post Reporters

Nearly 200 representatives of East Jerusalem organizations demonstrated yesterday outside the Hospice Hospital in the Old City against what they called plans to close the institution.

No official Israeli body has admitted to wanting to close the hospital. But both the Health Ministry and the Jerusalem municipality have said there is "great pressure" from the Roman Catholic Church in Austria, which owns the building, to move the hospital elsewhere.

The Hospice is the only hospital within the walls of the Old City and according to its directors provides an irreplaceable service to many poor Arabs in and around Jerusalem.

Dr. Ahmed Muhtadie, director of the hospital, told *The Jerusalem Post* yesterday that there are roughly 40,000 people in East Jerusalem with low incomes and no medical

insurance. For the poorest of these, the Hospice — the only government-run hospital in Jerusalem — provides a day's hospitalization at IS350, compared to the IS14,000 charged by other hospitals.

Hospice doctors and members of many public bodies in East Jerusalem fear that the Hospice will be closed because its surgery department is due to close, on Health Ministry orders, on March 1.

The doctors fear that closing the surgery department will be the first stage in closing the whole hospital. In any case, they say, a hospital cannot function without a surgery department.

The Health Ministry's reason for closing the surgery department is that its former head, Dr. Ahmed Khoury, resigned because of "irregularities." Now the Health Ministry says, there is no head of department. But Muhtadie says that the

Health Ministry itself gave the surgeon who now oversees the department, Dr. Hammad Hawary, the grade customarily given to heads of departments, and that the hospital itself regards Hawary as the director of the surgery department.

The building belongs to the Austrian church but was requisitioned by the British Army in 1939 as a hospital. It subsequently passed into Jordanian hands and the Jordanian Ministry of Health was a "protected tenant" of the church.

After 1967 the Israeli Health Ministry became the legal tenant. The church has been demanding the restitution of its building since 1964. In recent years, according to the municipality, Cardinal Franz Koenig of Vienna has been increasing pressure for the return of the building.

After the decision to close the surgery department, the church was supposed to get the third floor of the building to use as a hostel. But Dr. Franz Sauer, the church representative in Israel, has issued a

statement saying that the top floor of the hospital would not be suitable for the church's purposes, since it means that pilgrims would have to climb through a hospital to get to their rooms.

A senior Health Ministry source said recently that the municipality has been pressing for the return of the building to church hands. But in the municipality the claim is that the Austrians are applying pressure.

The last time the issue was considered the ministry thought that the hospital should not be closed, since it provides a service that would be hard to replace, the source said.

At yesterday's demonstration one woman said that the pressure to close the Hospice "is just part of the plot to move us Arabs out of the Old City."

Others do not see it in political terms, but say it would be hard to replace the Hospice. There was at one time a plan to move the hospital out of the Old City, but now no money can be found for the move.

Doubled travel tax passes first reading

By AARON SITTNER Jerusalem Post Reporter

A doubling of the travel tax came closer to reality yesterday. By a vote of 49 to 37 — strictly along party lines — a government bill raising the levy to IS12,000 was passed on its first reading and sent to the Finance Committee where it will be readied for its second and third readings.

Last week a similar bill failed when the coalition could not muster enough votes to override two floor amendments by the opposition. Later last week, Finance Minister Yigal Cohen-Orad's attempt to impose the higher tax by executive order instead of legislation also fell by the wayside after Speaker Menahem Savidor pointed out it would be disrespectful to the Knesset to do things that way.

Among the new features in yesterday's draft amendment are certain exemptions from the travel tax requirement. Among those ex-

empted are to be aircraft or ship crew personnel, even if not travelling on duty; foreign students, "in order to encourage them to admire the country and come here to live" without having to extend their tourist visas; non-resident church officials in the country on non-permanent status; juveniles who do not pay travel fares; and non-resident juveniles who ordinarily would have been subject to the travel tax because one parent is an Israeli citizen resident in the country.

Only Yitzhak Berman of the Likud voted with the opposition against the bill.

Justifying the call for a doubling of the tax, Deputy Finance Minister Haim Kaufman told the House it was designed to only "bring the travel impost into line with that of other surcharges Israelis are being asked to pay for importation of consumer goods."

"Considering that an Israeli, on

the average, spends \$1,000 on his trip, the tax represents only a 10 per cent levy, which is less than the 15 per cent value added tax paid on local purchases," he argued.

Most of the speakers opposing the doubling of the tax assailed it as "unprogressive." They said that the amount of the tax should be governed by the amount of the fare. For example, Shevah Weiss (Alignment) quoted an advertisement offering a cruise from Israel to Cyprus at \$25 for an adult and \$12 for a child, and \$70 to Athens for an adult, and \$35 for a child. He said: "At IS12,000, the travel tax will constitute more than 300 per cent of the price of a ticket!"

In reply, Kaufman assured the House that enterprising Israelis would surely take advantage of a travel tax linked to the price of a ticket by purchasing first a ticket to a nearby destination such as Cyprus and then buying there the most costly ticket to their real destination — tax-free.

Bill assures holiday release for prisoners

Jerusalem Post Staff

A prisoner's release date would be advanced by one day if his term ends on a religious holiday, according to a government bill approved by the Knesset yesterday on its first reading.

Drafted as an amendment to the Prisons Ordinance, the bill aims to correct the present situation whereby a prisoner is often unable to join his family in time for a religious festival if he is scheduled to be let out of jail the day of the holiday.

A former prisoner who is now a Knesset correspondent told *The Jerusalem Post* that "this is a very enlightened law, because when you are incarcerated, every last day is like a year."

In a related development, it was stated yesterday that the newly launched Prisoners Rehabilitation Authority will have enough money to handle only 10 or 15 per cent of the released convicts in its first year of operation. Deputy Social Affairs Minister Benzion Rubin said this at the Knesset Interior Committee.

The head of the authority, Avraham Hoffman, said one of the keys to rehabilitation of the prisoner on release is assistance to his family during his prison term.

Hoffman said this year some 90 ex-convicts will attend rehabilitation projects in "kibbutzim" and moshavim. He said the IDF will also give jobs to ex-convicts in army camps, in maintenance and repair work, to help teach them trades for return to civilian life.

University boycott due on doubling of tuition

Student leaders from the country's universities last night voted to hold a two-hour boycott of classes next Tuesday to protest against the Treasury's intention to raise tuition fees next year by 100 per cent.

Talks among the students, the Treasury and the Council for Higher Education on raising tuition fees while increasing loans and scholarships for students broke down last Friday.

Before next week's protest the students want to meet with Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, Deputy Prime Minister David Levy and the chairman of the Knesset Education Committee, Ora Namir, to present their case for a less drastic increase in fees.

Eilon Moreh settler charged with obstructing justice

TEL AVIV (Itim). — Menahem Ilan of Eilon Moreh was charged yesterday in Tel Aviv District Court with obstruction of justice, breach of trust by a public servant and interference with a policeman in the performance of his duties.

The charge sheet states that Ilan, 52, who served as the settlement's security coordinator and was responsible for its arms storeroom, attempted to interfere with the investigation of the murder of an 11-year-old Nabhis girl in December.

According to the charge sheet, Ilan suggested to Efraim Segal, one

of the suspects in the murder case, that he switch the barrel and bolt of his M-16 rifle with spares from the settlement's storeroom. Ilan and Ya'akov Cohen, Segal's co-worker, actually made the switch after Segal was arrested by the police for interrogation, the charge sheet states. Ilan is also accused of having later refused a request by policeman to turn over the weapons in the storeroom for examination, connection with investigation of the murder. The prosecution argues that Ilan's refusal "was intended to interfere with policemen in the performance of their duty."

Mubarak sets terms for envoy's return

CAIRO (AP). — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak has linked the return of an Egyptian ambassador to Israel with the Palestinian question, according to Julius Berman, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

Berman, who met with the president for about an hour yesterday, told reporters that Mubarak felt strongly "that it is possible to have a warm relationship with Israel and the Israeli people and be a member of the Islamic Conference and a leading Arab state."

Egypt sent an ambassador to Israel under their 1979 peace treaty, but withdrew him in 1982 originally to protest against Israel's invasion of Lebanon. It has resisted U.S. pressure to send him back.

"Now the president is raising the

Palestinian question and Taba, Berman said, although he said Mubarak called the disputed border at Taba "a minor point that could be resolved by a little goodwill."

Berman said he had voiced "a feeling that there has been a deadening" of the Camp David peace process, but Mubarak had rejected suggestions that Egypt was drawing back from Israel in order to improve relations with the Arab world.

Berman said Mubarak assured him that Egypt's return to the conference last month following a five year suspension and Cairo's improving relations with anti-Israeli Arab will not be at the expense of the peace with Israel.

"Mr. Mubarak stated that he committed, of course, to peace," Berman said.

Hammer to meet Ethiopian immigrants

Jerusalem Post Reporter

Education Minister Zevulun Hammer will meet today with representatives of Ethiopian immigrants to hear their views on their absorption, a ministry spokesman yesterday announced. The meeting follows sharp criticism recently voiced by anthropologists of absorption efforts for Ethiopian newcomers.

The anthropologists argued that those in charge of absorption do not understand the Ethiopian im-

migrants' culture. Teh heads ulpan for Ethiopian Jews have sent a letter to Hammer, rejecting criticism and saying that special study materials have been developed in accordance with Ethiopians' needs.

Meanwhile, the Jewish Agency and the *Yotv* Distribution Committee recently opened a programme to train para-professionals to work with Ethiopians in absorption centres. Five of the 120 trainees are themselves from Ethiopia.

Strained ties between Tunik, MK panel

Post Economic Reporter

A strain in relations between State Comptroller Yitzhak Tunik and members of the Knesset State Control Committee surfaced yesterday at the Knesset Finance Committee debate on a proposed adjustment of the State Comptroller's office budget.

Tunik appeared at the meeting to request a IS148 million adjustment to his budget due to price increases, but conceded that part of this sum

would be used for a 6-per-cent wage rise for his office workers. Tunik said that this could be done since the office employed 30 fewer workers than it was budgeted to employ. Some committee members criticized Tunik for this planned raise.

The comptroller said that some of this criticism resulted from his declarations the previous day that the State Control Committee had been interfering in his job.

Court rules on children's schooling

The Supreme Court, sitting in a rare special session yesterday, ruled that a rabbinical court which had been given authority by a man and his wife to decide on their children's form of education, has full jurisdiction even when one of the parents later objects to the rabbi's decision.

The case was brought to the Supreme Court after a dispute over jurisdiction between the Tel Aviv Rabbinical Court and the district court. The rabbinical court had ruled that the newly observant husband in a divorced couple had the right to have his two sons educated in a religious school, although his former wife was opposed, and the boys had previously attended only day schools.

The district court then decided, acting on the principle of the

children's own good, that they could not be forced to go to a religious school.

But in a 53-page decision yesterday, the Supreme Court said that since the couple had agreed during divorce proceedings that the rabbinical court was to have jurisdiction over their children's education, that court's ruling was binding (Itim).

Fashion exhibition opens

TEL AVIV. — The Winter Fashion Week exhibition opened here yesterday, with 50 producers participating. The Israel Export Institute, which organized the three-day exhibition, announced that 20 buyers from around the world were expected to attend.

In deep sorrow we announce the sudden death of our dear

DAGOBERT BRECHER

The funeral will take place tomorrow, Wednesday, February 22, 1984, leaving at 2 p.m. from the Municipal Funeral Parlour, Rehov Dafna 5, Tel Aviv, to the Holon Cemetery (New Gate).

A bus will be provided.

The bereaved:
His wife Antoinette
His son and daughter-in-law Adlai and Orit
His grandchild Daniel
And other members of the family

The Board of Directors, the Administration and Staff of Shaare Zedek Medical Center, Jerusalem extend sincerest condolences to their very good friends

The Hochstein-Fink Families
on the passing of their beloved mother

JENNY FINK ע"ה

Her generosity and kindness were an example to all.

המקום נחם אתכם בתוך שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים

The Bat-El Yeshiva Centre participates in the grief of the Hochstein-Fink Families with the passing to her eternal reward of

JENNY FINK ע"ה

a princess in Israel

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs extends its sincerest condolences to

Mrs. J. Hunt and Family
on the passing, in most tragic of circumstances, of her husband

LEAMON R. HUNT

Director General,
MFO (Multinational Force and Observers) in Sinai

a man dedicated to the cause of peace in our region

American Mizrahi Women express sincere condolences to the family of

JENNY FINK ע"ה

a great lady,
generous supporter and benefactress of the children in our care.
We share the grief of the bereaved family.

Frieda Kufeld,
President,
U.S.A.

Belle Gitelman,
Chairman,
Israel

J'lem police uncover faked Atarot break-ins

By ROBERT ROSENBERG
Jerusalem Post Reporter

Jerusalem police report they have uncovered a conspiracy that has defrauded insurance companies of hundreds of thousands of dollars in recent months.

A suspect is to be brought to Jerusalem Magistrates Court today for a remand hearing. Three other men are also slated for hearings.

The conspiracy involves staging break-ins and thefts at warehouses and other businesses in the Atarot industrial area, north of the capital.

According to police, the arrested man was on the verge of receiving \$20,000 in compensation from his insurance company, when the police began the investigation.

Meanwhile, the Jerusalem Merchants Association has charged that the police have been helpless in the face of a spate of expensive burglaries in the Atarot area.

Since last September there have been 17 reported break-ins in the industrial area, each involving thefts of merchandise and equipment worth from \$30,000 to \$50,000. The police believe that many of those complaints are staged break-ins.

According to Pakad Avi Marciano, head of the burglary division, the arrested man — a carpenter who complained of the theft of some \$35,000 in equipment — has told police that "many" of the Atarot businessmen have tried the same ploy.

The police have recovered all the supposedly stolen goods — finding them in the carpenter's warehouse.

The Jerusalem Post also has learned that "thousands of pieces of electrical supplies" were hidden in the carpenter's warehouse, leading police to suspect that the carpenter may have been keeping the electrical supplies for an associate who reported to police that goods were stolen. Rav Samai Rishon Aziz Issachar, who headed the investigation into the carpenter's break-in, is reportedly at work on other similar cases.

According to Sgan Nitzav Arie Schneiderscher, staged robberies and break-ins are a "new phenomenon" in Jerusalem. Schneiderscher, who heads the criminal investigation department, told The Post that in the past there have been "arson scams" to defraud insurance companies.



A truckload of snow, a gift from the Hermon ski resort to the snowless citizens of Jerusalem, arrives at Zion Square. (Ronit Na'aman and Rahamim Israeli)

\$750,000 plan to put museum in Technion's original home

By DAVID RUDGE
Jerusalem Post Reporter

HAIFA. — A \$750,000 project to turn the main building of the old Technion campus in the Hadar quarter into the permanent home of Israel's Technion — Ya'acov Dori National Museum of Science and Technology — was unveiled yesterday.

The building, erected in 1912, was the Technion's original home. Today the structure houses the departments of architecture and nuclear engineering, which are to move soon to the main campus in Neve Sha'an.

Museum organizers are optimistic that the Technion's management will allow them to use the building after it has been vacated.

Prof. Zvi Dori, director of the Technion museum, named after his father Ya'acov Dori, Israel's first chief-of-staff and former president of the Technion, said he was confident they could raise the capital.

He said plans for refurbishing the building had been drawn up. They

cannot start raising funds, however, until they received the consent of the Technion management.

Dori was speaking at a press conference to mark the opening of a new section of the museum named in memory of Shmuel (Mull) Degani, who fell in the Yom Kippur war. His family, who live in Neve Sha'an, donated the money for the section which comprises a 90-seat auditorium equipped with television, video and film projector, an exhibition hall and a laboratory workshop.

The museum, housed in an unused section of the old Technion campus in Hadar, was opened 12 months ago. At one stage it was feared that there would not be enough cash to keep it going, but with private donations, the assistance of local industry and a grant from the Ministry of Education and Culture, it has been expanded and developed.

Dori said more than 50,000 people, including 400 classes of schoolchildren, had visited the museum since its opening.

Two Syrian Druse granted asylum here

Jerusalem Post Reporter

HAIFA. — The sons of a Syrian Druse who was executed in Damascus in 1965 along with Israeli spy Eli Cohen have been granted political asylum in Israel, it was revealed yesterday.

The request for asylum was granted following numerous appeals by local Druse on behalf of the two unnamed men and their wives.

The two men were arrested and

tortured by Syrian security forces following their father's arrest, sources said. After they were released from jail, they made their way to Lebanon in 1973 and lived among Druse there. Following Israel's invasion of Lebanon in 1982 the two Druse contacted IDF officers with their request to settle in Israel.

The two families will reside in the Druse village of Eama until they acquire permanent housing.

Programme said to reduce school violence

Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV. — A new approach to preventing school violence has been tried successfully at several central region schools, the Education Ministry announced yesterday.

Pupils attended a seminar where they learned about verbal and physical violence and about law enforcement. They role-played situations of verbal violence and talked about its consequences, and learned

about real cases of violence at schools where persons ended up hospitalized. They also visited police stations and met with those responsible for helping disadvantaged youth.

Older pupils were trained to serve as tutors to violent schoolmates to try to help them stop using violence and, to become better integrated into school life.

It has been suggested that future seminars also include parents.

Jewish Agency board to vote today on aliya chairman

By JUDY SIEGEL
Jerusalem Post Reporter

The Jewish Agency board of governors begins meetings in Jerusalem today to approve the agency's proposed \$408-million budget for the coming year and the candidacy of Herut-Hatzohar nominee Haim Aharon for the chairmanship of the aliya department.

The board, consisting of Israeli and Diaspora representatives and chaired by Jerrold Hoffberger of Baltimore, has been asked to approve a regular budget of \$360 million plus a budget of \$48 million for Project Renewal. The budget proposals were prepared by treasurer Akiva Lewinsky.

The level of operations in the 1984/5 budget will remain approximately the same as in the previous one, but the aliya budget will increase, with a forecast of 18,000 immigrants in the coming year, compared to more than 16,000 who arrived in 1983 (the forecast for last year was 15,000).

The board will discuss a proposal to increase the number of Jewish students coming to study in Israel in 1984/5. The budget for settlement within the Green Line will be set at \$70 million if the board approves.

The Diaspora members are reportedly interested in participating this year in the committee meetings, which deal with Project Renewal, aliya, housing, settlement, finance, relations with the Zionist movement and Jewish education.

The board is expected to vote today on the candidacy of Aharon, the ambassador to Colombia, who was nominated last week by the Zionist arm of Herut. The board previously ousted Raphael Kotlowitz, who served for nearly six years, on the grounds that he was "unfit" for the job and "unable to communicate." With Diaspora Jewry.

Last month, the Zionist General Council rejected the candidacy of Minister-without-Portfolio Ariel Sharon, even before it reached the board for approval. Although

Aharon, a native of Chile, is not well known to Diaspora board members, he met with many of them over the weekend and reportedly made a good impression.

Aharon, 40, a lawyer previously involved in immigration affairs in Herut, immigrated in 1958. He has served as an envoy in Bogota for the last two years, as a political appointee. He has said since his nomination that he intends to "revolutionize" the system of emissaries, including the dispatch of short-term emissaries to promote aliya, and the use of local Jews for bureaucratic jobs in aliya centres.

The department has been headed nominally for four months by Agency Executive chairman Arye Dulzin, who strongly opposed Sharon's candidacy. Yehuda Dominitz, the long-time director-general, has actually been running the department.

The aliya and absorption process has been hampered in recent years by tensions between the Tami-run Absorption Ministry, especially

director-general Eli Artzi, and the Herut-run aliya department. Whether this will continue may depend on Aharon's clout and his connections with his reputed patron, Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

Charles Hoffman adds: The Project Renewal committee of the board yesterday received copies of the annual report of the International Committee for the Evaluation of Project Renewal, a panel appointed three years ago.

The report noted a "number of real improvements" in housing, social and community services, resident participation, in relationships with Diaspora twinned communities, and in people's attitudes towards their neighbourhoods.

Yet it noted that no one could say if the project had been a "success," since it had never developed specific goals or criteria for measuring achievement. The original time-frame of five years for the project to work in a neighbourhood was determined by the period needed for collecting pledges made by Diaspora contributors. Even now there are no clear "scientific" criteria for deciding when the project should begin to wind down in a specific neighbourhood.

Welcome to Israel

Betty Birnbaum Cohen of Newton and Hull, Mass. Betty is a lifelong worker for worthy causes. Her husband RALPH COHEN is prominent in the Freemasonry Movement in U.S.A. and is a member of a Tel Aviv Lodge.

From the Capt. Yehiel and Ruth Glorovsky Langer Hospitality Foundation, One Mapu St., Jerusalem.

Management angered by TV host's interview

By JUDY SIEGEL
Jerusalem Post Reporter

Ram Evron, host of Israel TV's interview programme *This is the Time*, will face a disciplinary hearing because he gave an interview critical of the Broadcasting Authority management to two local newspapers without first asking permission.

In another development, the resignation yesterday of *Mabat* news editor Michael Karpin caused its own buzz of controversy in the corridors of TV House.

Management, including authority chairman Reuven Yaron, were incensed by Evron's interview in Jerusalem's *Kol Ha'ir* and Tel Aviv's *Ha'ir* weeklies last Friday. In it, Evron criticized the way the authority is managed, and claimed that his show is crippled by attempts to control who will appear as guests and what topics they may discuss.

Evron violated a standing order at the Broadcasting Authority that no staffer may be interviewed in the

media without obtaining permission from his superiors. Only a month ago, management sent reminders to employees about the rule, even though it has rarely been enforced in the past.

The disciplinary board has the power to reprimand a TV staffer either privately or publicly, or to freeze his salary grade, but apparently cannot ban him from appearing on a TV programme.

In yesterday's board of directors meeting, Yaron said there is a need to "study in depth the way the programme operates." He suggested that staffers of *This is the Time* are given too much leeway in deciding what will be broadcast on the show.

Asked to comment, Evron told *The Jerusalem Post* that he would not react to the decision to bring him before a disciplinary board, since "I have not received permission to be interviewed."

Karpin, meanwhile, tendered his

resignation, because he has not been given a permanent appointment. Karpin, a former TV correspondent in Europe, served a three-month trial period, and was offered another three-month trial by TV director Tuvia Sa'ar rather than tenure.

TV journalists maintain that failure to give Karpin the permanent position is "another attempt" of management to control the news department on the basis of political, rather than professional, considerations. Karpin could not be reached last night for comment.

Yair Stern, the director of TV news, will serve as acting *Mabat* editor until a successor to Karpin is chosen.

Yisrael Peleg of the Labour Party told the board of directors that Karpin's job was not a topic that should be under the purview of the board, but he asked whether there was truth in reports that members of the board had intervened against Karpin. Sa'ar denied these reports.

Ne'eman: Don't join 'nuclear weapons club'

By CHARLES HOFFMAN, Jerusalem Post Reporter
Science and Development Minister Prof. Yuval Ne'eman yesterday said it is not in Israel's interests to develop a nuclear deterrent to Arab aggression.

Speaking to the government spokesmen's forum in Jerusalem, Ne'eman asserted that a nuclear balance of terror such as exists between the two superpowers would not work in the Middle East.

Ne'eman, a nuclear physicist who has occupied high positions in the defence establishment, noted that Israel decided in the early 1950s to create a nuclear infrastructure in response to the fear that the Arabs would get the bomb from their super-power allies. "But we never crossed the threshold into the nuclear weapons club," he said.

He said that a balance of terror would not work in the Middle East because any one of Israel's 20 adversaries — especially "irrational regimes like Gaddafi's Libya"

— could destabilize it and push the others into war, as Syria did in 1967. Furthermore, Israel could be wiped out with a few atom bombs, whereas the Arabs are much less vulnerable.

A nuclear deterrent would not be effective for situations in which the military threat is less than total, he said. Thus Israel will still have to maintain full conventional preparedness. The bomb would not be tactically useful, either, against large invading forces close to our borders.

Ne'eman said that Israel should not sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. "We would have international inspectors crawling all over us, while the Arab countries would be free to do what they want, as Iraq did."

He favours a pact to make the Middle East a nuclear-free zone that would include mutual inspection by the signatories.

Tests to begin for siting of nuclear plant

By DAVID RUDGE
Jerusalem Post Reporter

HAIFA. — The Electric Corporation is exploring the feasibility of siting the country's first nuclear-power station at Shvita in the heart of the Negev, even though there is no immediate prospect of purchasing a nuclear core.

The Shvita site, which is many kilometres from the nearest habitation, was chosen as the most suitable of several proposed locations.

Research by the corporation's nuclear-power division has been carried out for the past four years. Next week engineers and scientists are to drill trial boreholes at the site. The Electric Corporation

spokesman said this latest work, which will cost about \$200,000, is to check the geological and hydrological nature of the land as well as to determine the strength of the rock strata.

It will take several months before the work is completed and the results analysed.

The proposed nuclear-power station is part of the corporation's development programme to meet the country's electricity needs in the next century.

At the moment, however, there seems little chance of buying a nuclear-power plant from countries already using atomic energy because of the government's refusal to sign the Nuclear Non-

Proliferation Treaty, which involves regular inspection of nuclear facilities by international inspectors.

The possibility of Israel building its own nuclear reactor has been virtually ruled out because of the cost.

The corporation spokesman said it hopes that by the time the preparatory work is completed, the problems preventing Israel from purchasing a nuclear-power plant would have been resolved.

"It takes several years to carry out the essential research work prior to establishing a nuclear-power station and we do not want to find ourselves in a position where we can purchase a nuclear reactor and then not have anywhere suitable to put it," he said.

Teachers to take 'bagrut' exams themselves

Jerusalem Post Reporter

Selected high-school teachers will take the *bagrut* (matriculation) exams this year to make sure there are no errors, unfair questions or other problems.

This has been decided by the Education Ministry and the Henrietta Szold Institute for Research on Human Behaviour, following difficulties which arose with some of last year's exams. The teachers will make sure the

questions are on material included in the curriculum, that the questions are clear and that the time allotted for answering each question is reasonable.

The computer will also be pressed into service this year to help in evaluating pupils' test papers. Questions in various subjects will be fed into the computer with information on the relative difficulty of the question and the level of thought and understanding required to answer it.

Tax break for TA's needy and crowded families

Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV. — The city yesterday decided to reduce this year's municipal rates for needy elderly people and young couples, and families living in overcrowded conditions. Pensioners will be given reductions from 25 per cent to 100 per cent, depending on the size of their apartment.

Earlier this week the city council

approved a 260-368 per cent rise in rates for homes and businesses. According to Union of Local Authority guidelines, the rates should only have been raised 260 per cent, but due to a change in the city's grading of certain areas from a low-tax area to a high-tax area, several neighbourhoods will pay 350 per cent more than they did last year.

Mesheh to Romania as guest of unions

TEL AVIV. — Histadrut Secretary-General Yehoram Mesheh yesterday flew to Romania for a week's visit as guest of its Federation of Trade Unions.

It is the first time in 15 years that contacts are being held at this level, according to Avraham Allon, the head of the labour federation's international relations department.

Mesheh will visit plants and the Jewish community.

BOOKLETS. — The Pensioners' Authority of the National Insurance Institute has begun the publication of a series of booklets to aid older people. The first three booklets — on proper nutrition, prevention of household accidents and safely crossing streets — may be obtained by writing to the NII, 13 Sherot Weizmann, Jerusalem 91909, (telephone: 02-520912).

Today's Lesson:

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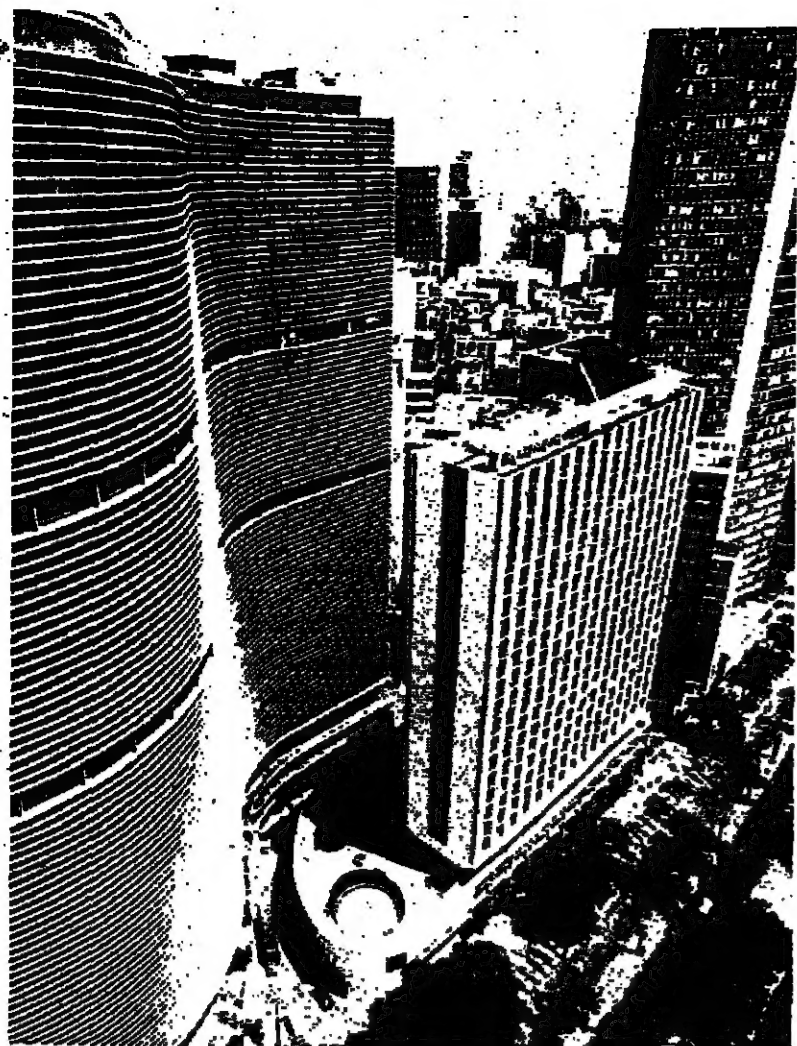
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To EGYPT with the experts

Welcome to Israel

Betty Birnbaum Cohen of Newton and Hull, Mass. Betty is a lifelong worker for worthy causes. Her husband RALPH COHEN is prominent in the Freemasonry Movement in U.S.A. and is a member of a Tel Aviv Lodge.

From the Capt. Yehiel and Ruth Glorovsky Langer Hospitality Foundation, One Mapu St., Jerusalem.



São Paulo: facade of prosperity

"THESE NEW resources will be just enough to keep the level of the water between our lips and our nose, provided we stand on tiptoe," said one of Brazil's leading bankers after the International Monetary Fund (IMF) finally freed a long-delayed loan to the country last November. It was part of an \$11 billion rescue package put together by western banks and governments — and it may last Brazil around six months.

The initials of the International Monetary Fund in Portuguese are FMI, and Brazilians now claim they stand for *Fome, Miséria, Inflação*: Hunger, Misery and Inflation. There is plenty of all those in Brazil at the moment, and it will only get worse in the foreseeable future.

The source of the problem is Brazil's enormous debt of \$95 billion, the largest in the Third World. Its visible results are the legions of unemployed who throng the city centres collecting waste paper and scrap metal, hawking matches and combs, anything to scrape together a few cruzeiros for food.

Since last April over 400 supermarkets, food shops and bakeries have been looted by mobs of hungry people from the *favelas* (shanty-towns) that ring every big Brazilian city. In some poor areas food purchases have fallen by a third, and the armed forces are now rejecting 45 per cent of potential recruits for physical deficiencies.

'This economy is disappearing into a black hole'

GWYNNE DYER reports from London on Brazil's economic troubles, whose source is the "enormous debt of \$95 billion."

mostly caused by malnutrition. The bulk of Brazil's 120 million people have always led lives of poverty and insecurity, but now the same conditions are proliferating in the big industrial cities of the south-east that were the powerhouse of the Brazilian "economic miracle" of the 70s. By the end of this year one factory job in three may have disappeared, and there is no unemployment benefit in Brazil.

THE MISERY is so acute and widespread that many people are beginning to worry about revolution. Yet the military government, more despised than hated, and utterly worn out after 20 years in power, can think of no alternative to continuing to impose the harsh austerity measures that are causing the desperation.

The IMF demands those measures, and President Figueiredo, unwilling to admit that the regime has got its sums disastrously wrong, rejects the pos-

sibility of a debt moratorium as "capitulation." So Planning Minister Delfim Neto and the international banks are engaged in an elaborate game of make-believe which allows the banks to pretend that their loans are still safe.

A West German banker said: "Delfim is making promises to the IMF which everyone knows Brazil cannot keep, in order to get loans that the IMF cannot afford to make, and which, anyway, would be pitifully insufficient to meet Brazil's need for new money to pay its debts and buy essential imports."

Brazil's leading economist, Professor Dercio Garcia Munoz, is even bleaker: "This economy is disappearing into a black hole."

Munoz, whose predictions have generally been far more accurate than the government's, expects inflation to reach 300 per cent by December. By 1985 there will have been a 27 per cent decline in real wages, and a 30 per cent fall in the gross domestic product. And all this

sacrifice is not even going to solve the debt crisis.

Brazil's only way of earning foreign exchange to pay its debts is to run a big trade surplus by slashing imports. It might just keep its nose above water if Delfim Neto's latest promises to the IMF — a \$9 billion surplus this year and \$12 billion next year — came true, but the Brazilian central bank's confidential expectations are far lower: \$7.5 billion and \$8.5 billion.

Even that assumes that Brazil's trading partners do not take reprisals for its harsh restrictions on imports. More importantly, it assumes that the political will is there in Brasília to go on subjecting the Brazilian people to severe hardships indefinitely.

LAST OCTOBER, the normally compliant Brazilian Congress overwhelmingly rejected President Figueiredo's plan to limit all wage increases to 80 per cent of the inflation rate. In November it only nar-

rowly passed a compromise plan which hit the poor less hard, and made up for it by gouging the middle class even harder: they will lose between 10 per cent and 30 per cent of their purchasing power every six months.

The new middle class created by the boom of the 70s was the military regime's main source of support, and this policy will make it almost impossible for the soldiers to control the election of the next president in 1985. "To squeeze the middle class this way is the most efficient means to destabilize the regime," said former planning minister Mario Simonsen.

But the politicians are genuinely afraid of what might happen if the poor are squeezed any harder. "Brazil is entering the danger zone," says Tancredo Neves, the right-wing governor of Minas Gerais.

The former president of the bankers' federation, Pedro Conde, is more explicit: "It is not the unions that worry me now, it is the poor, the people of the *favelas*, the unemployed."

"It is not cuts in wages that provoke them, because they have no wages. But now the subsidies on food have been stopped and the inflation is rising again. This debt crisis and the state of the economy are the worst things I have known in my life. But they do not frighten me in the way that the poor do."

SCIENTISTS from East and West are warning that a "nuclear winter" could descend on earth and destroy mankind even if only one super-power fires its weapons.

They say a big nuclear strike would wreak such havoc on weather and the environment that a nation launching such an attack would effectively be committing suicide.

Even if no other country were to counter-attack, the fate of humanity could be sealed. The warheads would trigger a nuclear winter of freezing cold and darkness in which no crops or civilization could survive.

Some 100 eminent physicists, atmospheric scientists and biologists have already checked the "nuclear winter" theory and more international research is under way, but its implications are already thrusting into politics.

"I think it completely knocks out the theory that one side could prevail in a nuclear war," says veteran British politician Denis Healey, the opposition Labour Party's defence expert.

The United States and the Soviet Union accuse each other of building up their nuclear arsenals to try to do just this.

Now U.S. and Soviet scientists are stepping up their warnings that nuclear war is not winnable.

One of the American scientists involved in the new studies, astrophysicist Carl Sagan, says a first strike would effectively be "an elaborate way of committing suicide."

THE "NUCLEAR WINTER" scenario stems from new research into the effects of the sooty smoke and dust which would billow from nuclear-triggered firestorms — an aspect overlooked until Dutch professor Paul Crutzen turned his attention to it in 1982.

Crutzen, director of the Max Planck Institute for Chemistry in Mainz, West Germany, concluded

Scientists fear 'nuclear winter'

By STEPHEN POWELL/London

that nuclear conflict would create enormous clouds of black smoke which would blot out the sun and absorb its life-giving rays.

This view, published in the Swedish science journal *Ambio* in June 1982, sent U.S. and Soviet scientists scurrying to their computers with new meteorological and environmental questions.

U.S. researchers concluded that a conflict using only 5,000 of the 12,000 megatons in the world's nuclear arsenal would cut sunlight to a few per cent of normal in a week, as 225 million tons of smoke billowed into the air.

Land temperatures would plunge to between minus 15 and minus 25 Centigrade, except on coastlines, they said, in findings published in October.

"Survivors would face extreme cold, water shortages, lack of food and fuel, heavy burdens of radiation and pollutants, diseases, and severe psychological stress — all in twilight or darkness."

Soviet researchers agree on the "nuclear winter" phenomenon, and four of the Soviet Union's most distinguished researchers gave their views at a forum on the after-effects of nuclear war in Washington last December.

A study based on the U.S. research and written by 20 leading scientists from several countries appeared in the American journal *Science* in late December.

"It is clear that the ecosystem ef-

fects alone of a thermonuclear war could be enough to destroy the current civilization in at least the northern hemisphere," the study said. "Coupled with the direct casualties of perhaps two billion people, the combined immediate and long-term effects of nuclear war suggest that eventually there might be no survivors in the northern hemisphere."

THE STUDY says nuclear war would also have a profound effect on the southern hemisphere, as food imports from the north would stop and tropical forests might die. The earth's major reservoir of organic diversity, these forests could largely disappear, as they are sensitive to even short periods of cold and darkness.

Research also suggests that even a small nuclear attack using less than one per cent of the world's arsenal could trigger a "nuclear winter."

U.S. scientists say 100 megatons, if exploded over cities, could produce a two-month interval of sub-zero land temperatures with a minimum near minus 23 Centigrade (minus 9 Fahrenheit). If they are correct, British nuclear weapons alone could turn summer into winter.

The British Labour Party, which opposes the deployment of NATO's new Cruise and Pershing-2 missiles in Europe, has used the theory to bolster its anti-nuclear stance.

Says Healey: "I think more and more countries will be forced to the conclusion that what NATO needs is a conventional deterrent against conventional attack."

Political analyst David Watt, director of the Royal Institute of International Affairs, says the significance of the theory can hardly be over-emphasized, if it is correct. "It would overturn the whole of the conventional view about deterrence and the nature of nuclear war."

Several scientists believe the theory will eventually have an important political impact.

"This will happen as it becomes evident there is no way of avoiding the effects of nuclear attack simply by going underground and staying there for a week or two," Frank Von Hippel, chairman of the Federation of American Scientists, says.

FURTHER RESEARCH into the "nuclear winter" theory is under way, and the International Council of Scientific Unions will probe the idea as part of a two-year study into the effects of nuclear war.

British scientist Sir Frederick Warner, who heads the study, is cautious at this stage about the "nuclear winter" scenario: "I think there is a *prima facie* case for it. The predictions vary widely, and what we will do is look at it more rigorously."

Current predictions cover a wide range of estimated temperature drops, from about four to 40 degrees Centigrade.

One reason scientists are taking a fresh look at the world after nuclear war is a theory about the extinction of the dinosaurs 65 million years ago, Sagan and others say.

The idea has emerged that dinosaurs may have died out after a meteorite collided with the earth and sent up a huge dust-cloud which blotted out the sun for several years. (Reuters News Service)

plan to set up a computerised criminal file with links to central police bureaux in all its 135 member countries after doubts arose due to differences in national legislation on the protection of individuals.

Last year, an international committee set up to monitor Interpol activities warned the French government that a global computer network on criminals could curtail civil liberties, citing "the danger of a police organisation above the law."

The group was referring to a proposed accord granting Bossard and his staff of 225 diplomatic privileges and immunity from legal prosecution in France.

The scheme, which also includes provisions for transferring Interpol's criminal files from index cards to a computer, nonetheless came into operation on February 14.

Bossard said the Computer Control Commission — a five-man panel of independent legal experts and computer specialists appointed by Interpol and the French government — would review the problem of legislation and tighten up security as well. (Reuters)

INTERPOL TURNS TO COMPUTERS

By MARY ELLEN BORTIN/Paris

Saint-Cloud.

Bossard, secretary-general of Interpol since 1978, portrayed today's computerised criminals as descendants of the stagecoach robbers who harnessed the best technology then available — good horses — to pursue their aims.

A voluble man whose Gallic frankness contrasts with Interpol's cloak-and-dagger reputation, Bossard, 57, said white collar crime and

fund laundering in offshore banks were gaining on illegal narcotics trafficking as his leading concern.

"Economic fraud reported to us last year totalled \$1.5 billion, and that's just the tip of the iceberg," he said.

To fight back, Bossard said computerisation would have to become a fact of life for police.

Interpol has already computerised data such as counterfeit banknote numbers and could begin entering statistics on drug trafficking and descriptions of stolen art works.

But he said the organisation would wait for the creation of an international control commission before entering data on individuals. INTERPOL DROPPED a previous

Fine wine from Bekaa

SERGE HOCHAR's fine wines have managed to flourish in the midst of war and chaos in the Bekaa Valley.

The 44-year-old Lebanese winemaker admits he has needed a little luck. But Britain's top wine magazine says what he has achieved is nevertheless extraordinary — for he has managed to produce internationally noted wines in trying circumstances.

Hochar, whose Chateau Musar wines are sold in Britain, the Netherlands, the U.S., Canada, Australia, Hongkong and Singapore, was presented last week with Decanter magazine's man-of-the-year award for services to wine.

He told Reuters in an interview in London that by a miracle his vineyards had been so far untouched by the fighting in Lebanon although an Israeli tank did rumble across one corner.

Hochar said he had luck last year

when a bad winter followed by a mild summer delayed ripening of the grapes until fighting around the vineyards ceased.

ONCE THE GRAPES were picked, the problem was to transport them to his winery in the village of Ghazir, overlooking the port of Jounieh, north of Beirut.

The roads in South Lebanon were blocked for five months, and the only way to the winery was by lorry from the Bekaa Valley slopes, over the Shouf mountains, down to the coast and up to the village. The coastal highway was under constant bombardment, but the lorry escaped with only a burst tyre.

Hochar exports thousands of cases of Chateau Musar wines annually.

His wines have not gone up in price for two years, retailing in Britain at around £4 (about IS750) a bottle. (Reuters)

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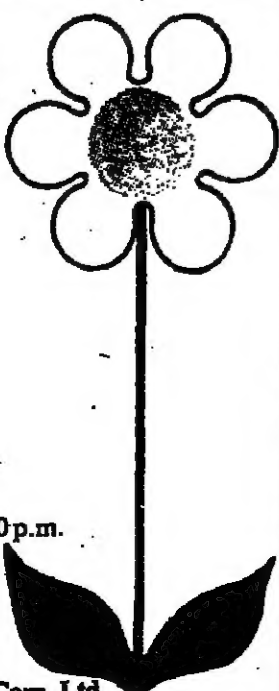
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Austerity at Hamashbir as sales drop 15 per cent

By YITZHAK OKED
Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV. — The Hamashbir Lat-zarchan chain of department stores expects 1984 to be a very bleak year and is girding itself for a drop of at least 15 per cent in sales.

General manager Shmuel Eyal told reporters here that since November there had already been a 15 per cent drop.

As a result, he said, the company has taken a number of austerity measures, including restrictions in the use of electricity. Managers scheduled to go on a study tour of Marks & Spencer stores in England this year will postpone their trip.

Eyal promised that he will do everything not to dismiss tenured workers. The chain employs 1,785 workers. Manpower will be reduced by not hiring new staff to replace workers who retire or quit.

The austerity programme has also hit the chain's expansion plans. The Hadera and Carmiel stores planned for this year are not being built. On the other hand, new stores already under construction will be completed more or less in time.

The Ra'anana store is expected to open next month. It will have the youngest manager in the chain, a new immigrant from South Africa, Allen Katz, who gained experience in this field both here and in South Africa.

The year 1983 as a whole was quite good for the chain. This was mainly due to the prosperous first nine months. The chain had a total turnover of \$525 million, compared to \$520 million in 1982. This is an increase of 156 per cent, or about 10 per cent, in real terms. The chain will give bonuses to its workers, as it has done every year when there was a profit.

Two Saudi TV channels can soon be seen here, engineer says

By YITZHAK OKED
Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV. — Television viewers will soon be able to see two more channels — programmes of the Saudi Arabian television service.

In May the French will launch for the Saudis a communication satellite called Arab-Sat, which will beam TV shows on two channels.

Television engineer Morris Ben-David, who owns the Anteco company which builds and installs TV antennas told *The Jerusalem Post* that Israel will be able to see these programmes if they have a suitable antenna. He said that according to his information these two channels will be similar to the Jordanian foreign channel, which carries mainly imported programmes.

Ben-David is also a consultant of MET — Middle East Television — operated by Americans in Southern

Lebanon near the Good Fence.

He told *The Jerusalem Post* that he has developed a new antenna for the reception of programmes from Arab-Sat. It will be cheaper and much smaller than the existing dish antennas which can receive programmes from satellites, he said.

The new antenna is a microstrip antenna, which includes a printed circuit imbedded in the antenna. It needs a down-converter, so that transmissions from the satellite can be received by ordinary colour TV sets. The antenna will cost \$150 to \$200 (without installation). The starting price of dish antennas is about \$1,000.

Ben-David described rumours that the MET station was about to close as baseless, and said that the opposite was true that MET had recently invested money to improve its coverage.

U.S. economy grew at 4.9% annual rate

WASHINGTON (AP). — The U.S. economy grew at a healthy annual rate of 4.9 per cent in the final three months of 1983, the government has announced amid mounting signs that the first part of 1984 will be even better.

The Commerce Department reported that the real Gross National Product, the inflation-adjusted value of the nation's output of goods and services, performed even better than a preliminary estimate of 4.5 per cent made last month.

While the revision to 4.9 per cent

wasn't as high as some economists were predicting, it still reflected an even better economic performance than the government had originally thought.

The increase came primarily from better showings in housing construction and business investment.

The annual increase was the best showing since 1978.

BARTER OIL. — Hungary and the United Arab Emirates have been discussing the possibility of trading Hungarian goods in exchange for oil from the Emirates.

Supersol had IS451m. profit

By JOSEPH MORGENSTERN
Post Finance Reporter

TEL AVIV. — The Supersol chain of food markets, which is currently celebrating its 25th anniversary, has just reported its single best annual sales and earnings performance. The company's sales of IS5.7 billion reflected a real gain of 27 per cent. Operating profits grew six-fold, and stood at IS281.6 million.

Supersol's net profit, including its subsidiaries and affiliates, after taxes, totalled IS940m., compared with IS274m. a year ago. The profits for the year ending October 31, 1983 grew by a nominal 243 per cent.

The net profit after adjustment for inflation stood at IS451m.

In the year under review the group's capital means totalled IS1.7b., marking a 25 per cent real gain. Supersol currently operates 50 branches throughout Israel and has a staff of 1,700. The company plans to open eleven new branches until the end of 1985.

The board of directors has recommended the distribution of 100 per cent in bonus shares for each type of share.

At the company's recent board meeting it was decided to double share capital from IS500m. to IS1b. Supersol was established with the help of foreign capital and its board includes the Canadian, Charles Bronfman.

Billing system for users of central gas to be reviewed

Jerusalem Post Reporter

The Energy Ministry has agreed to re-examine the new system for calculating bills for users of central gas systems, following a series of discussions with consumer organizations.

The new billing system, which increased the deposit paid when hooking up to the central gas and the advance paid on current consumption, led to steeper gas bills this month for most users.

Ministry director-general Uriel Lynn explained that the costs to the gas suppliers of maintaining inven-

tories in central gas systems had to be defrayed somehow. This could either be done by paying a large advance with each bill on current consumption, or it could be translated into a higher unit price for the gas itself.

Lynn told the consumer organizations that it would be better for the economy if these costs were paid in the form of advances on current consumption, to be credited to the customer at the next billing, than as higher gas prices.

Ministry officials plan to meet again with consumer representatives in two weeks.

Almost \$4 billion in U.S. political insurance

WASHINGTON (AP). — The U.S. government's Overseas Private Investment Corporation has announced that it wrote a record \$3.9 billion worth of insurance in the year ending last September 30 for American businesses worried that their interests in other countries might be hurt either by the governments of those countries or their enemies.

Craig A. Nalen, president of the corporation, said that it covered 124 projects and represented about \$4b. in new U.S. investment in poor countries. The year before it issued new policies worth \$3b.

American business in Saudi Arabia has bought the biggest

amount in any single country over the years — a total of some \$270 million — to safeguard against government takeovers.

The largest total of insurance against war, revolution and insurrection has been taken by American business in Israel — almost \$250m.

Insurance against government refusal to let Americans take their money home was sought most in South Korea, over \$210m. worth.

The corporation had a net income of \$82.7m. in the year. Over the past two years it has paid back to the U.S. Treasury all of the \$106m. it originally received to start it off in business.

W. Germany's Krupp has \$377m. in Saudi orders

ESSEN (AP). — West German industrial giant Krupp said yesterday it received an order for a sixth cement production line near Riyadh. This takes its total current Saudi order volume to almost 1 billion marks (\$377 million).

A company statement said Krupp

already has erected five production lines for the Yamama Cement Co. on the outskirts of Riyadh.

"Adding the sixth line just ordered, plant production capacity will increase by another 3,100 tons a day, to a total of 8,700 tons by the summer of 1986."

AIRLINE BRIEFS

By JOSHUA BRILLIANT

TOWER AIR (formerly Metro International), which flies between New York and Tel Aviv, has bought a second Boeing 747 and expects to increase the frequency of its flights here.

The aircraft, which had been overhauled at the Boeing plant, will be delivered in April and Tower Air will then begin flying here twice a week. At present Tower Air flies here only once a week and on the other days its plane is leased to the U.S. Army for flights to Japan, Hawaii and Mexico.

TWA is selling tickets for round-trip flights to New York — with a stopover in Europe — for \$599.

The airline wanted to allow ticket holders to fly on its planes only, but the Civil Aviation Administration turned down its request to include in its tickets a rider saying that they are not transferable.

The fare will rise by \$100 in March.

PLUNA, Uruguay's national carrier, has opened an office at the El Al building in Tel Aviv. The airline hopes to sell tickets for its flights from Madrid to Latin America. It has appointed Julio Blankleder as its regional manager. Blankleder has previously represented Varig here.

JAT, the Yugoslav carrier, has agreed to schedule its flights from Athens to Belgrade and Zagreb so that they will depart after El Al and Olympic Airways flights from Israel make their landing at the Greek capital.

The arrangement will make it easier for Israeli vacationers to reach Yugoslavia.

Higher interest on bank loans expected

Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV. — Banks will probably raise the interest they charge for loans and credits within the next few days — and lower the interest they pay on *pakam* and *tafas* accounts, it is learned.

Interest on credits will rise in line with the recent 4.9 per cent hike in the cost-of-living index. The interest paid depositors will drop due to a huge jump in the liquidity of the banks. The "surplus" of all banks is now estimated at about \$15 billion.

The rate paid depositors was recently reduced from an effective 300 per cent a year to 260 per cent.

US-PLO FEELERS

(Continued from Page One)

said he was unaware of the entire operation — as did former national security adviser Richard Allen, who served during much of that nine-month period.

Haig — as his predecessors, especially Cyrus Vance — was said to have been originally very excited about the prospect of winning a moderated PLO position which could supposedly lead to a breakthrough in the Arab-Israeli peace process. In his memoirs released last year, Vance detailed his repeated efforts to secure a changed PLO position, and his frustrations in failing to do so.

As the discussions involving Vellotes, Mroz and Arafat continued without success, Haig clearly lost interest in the operation.

The Near Eastern Affairs Bureau at the State Department, under Vellotes, also did not have any great expectations that the Mroz efforts would succeed, but they felt that it was still worth the effort — if only on the outside chance that it might.

The basic problem, according to U.S. officials, was Arafat's refusal to flatly "and unambiguously" accept Israel's right to exist. He also rejected Resolution 242 because it referred to Palestinians only as "refugees."

According to U.S. officials, the dialogue with the PLO did not violate the U.S. commitment to Israel since there was no direct exchange.

In earlier years, there had been several third-party intermediaries who sought to negotiate an American-PLO deal. Among them were former Republican congressmen Paul Findley of Illinois and Pete McCloskey of California, several U.S. academicians, including Connecticut Prof. Norton Mezvinsky and Georgetown University's Landrum Bolling, and numerous Arab leaders, especially the Saudis and Egyptians.

Only last week, Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak publicly urged Reagan to open talks with Arafat. But over the years, Arafat has rejected all these overtures. One State Department official told *The New*

York Times that "the real problem was Arafat's refusal to bite the bullet."

The one thing all these intermediaries had in common, of course, was their basic sympathy for the PLO. A former associate of Mroz at the East-West Institute noted that Mroz had adopted a Palestinian child orphaned during fighting in Lebanon.

"He was very proud of his PLO connection," the source said.

"He bragged about it all the time. He was quite open about what he was doing. Very often, he spoke with Arafat on the phone during staff meetings, without even asking those of us in his office to leave the room."

Despite the Kissinger commitment to Israel, there had been several direct U.S.-PLO contacts since the mid-1970s, but those were supposed to involve only security arrangements for U.S. diplomats in Beirut. Invariably, however, substance was discussed. These were handled for the most part by officials of the Central Intelligence Agency. Israel was aware of these exchanges, and did not complain. With the ouster of the PLO from Beirut in 1982, those contacts dried up.

In addition, U.S. diplomats have been permitted to have polite "social" contact with PLO officials at receptions at the UN and elsewhere, but they were not supposed to involve diplomatic substance. Former UN ambassador Andrew Young was forced to resign during the Carter administration when it was disclosed that he was having diplomatic conversations with the PLO's UN observer, Zehdi Terzi.

On Sunday, a State Department spokesman repeated the standard position that the U.S. will refuse to recognize or negotiate with the PLO until it accepts America's conditions. The U.S., however, will continue to talk with "various people who have contact with the PLO."

The spokesman said that if the PLO were to accept the U.S. conditions, "we have said we would talk with them."

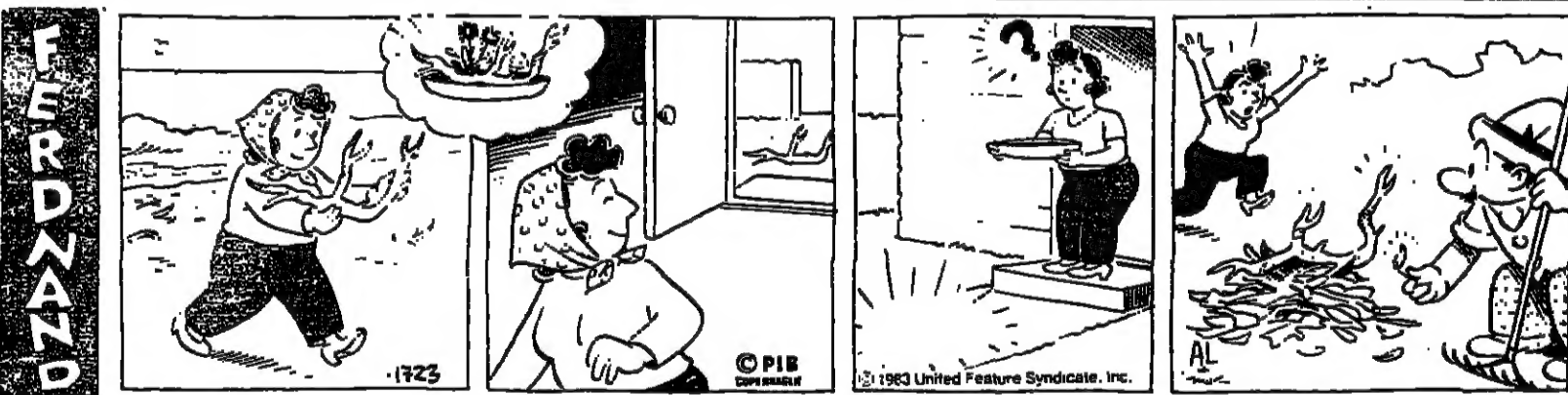
U.S. trade deficit with Japan \$18.13 billion

TOKYO (Reuters). — Japan will come under strong pressure to act quickly to cut its enormous trade surpluses when trade talks open here today with the U.S.

Last year Japan's exports exceeded its imports by \$31.65 billion and the U.S., Japan's largest customer, suffered most. Japanese

figures show the bilateral deficit reached \$18.13b.

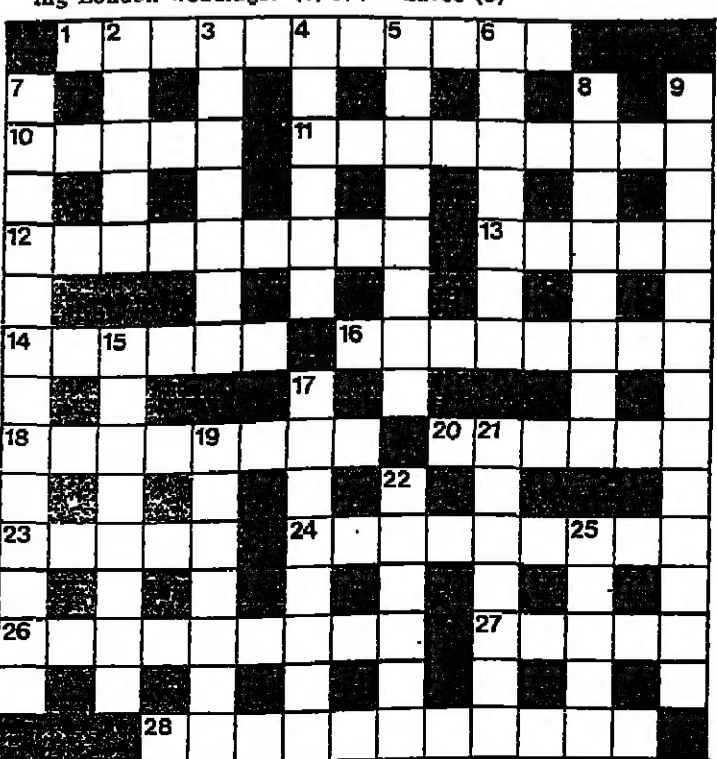
The U.S. wants Japan to allow freer beef imports, ending restrictions aimed at protecting inefficient local farmers. It will also add its voice to a call by the European Community at its latest round of trade talks with Japan for a stronger yen.



ONE-AND-ONE CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- The large sums of money required for erecting skyscraper blocks? (4, 7)
 - To have a snooze in it isn't at all appropriate (5)
 - I cannot do otherwise for this feldsman from 2 (9)
 - Literally the study of roots (8)
 - Old clown taking a nourishing hot drink (5)
 - Cathy's assemblage of fast-moving craft (6)
 - Deeply impressed and serious in intention? (8)
 - The kind of state the USSR is (8)
 - He took great interest doubtless in where Abraham was born (6)
 - Little Margaret grasping a lariat (5)
 - Free of charge? (9)
 - Irregular share-out I sanction (9)
 - Superficially damaging impressions (5)
 - Naval chaplain who had a bad reputation for conducting London weddings? (5, 6)

- DOWN**
- A land in which there are capital youth hostels (5)
 - In haste after setting up a scorching pace? (7)
 - Chinwag on a port in South Korea (6)
 - How irritating it is when there is in any case no gin cocktail to follow! (8)
 - English language master whose characters went in search of Canterbury bells (7)
 - Retiring at the right moment to avoid trouble? (6, 7)
 - Light upon a record surplus? (8)
 - We can't see anything in it (5, 8)
 - Turn cars out for the fruit market, maybe (8)
 - Claim I put forward for a territory that can do tremendous damage... (4-4)
 - ... and the combustible material it can't be expected to produce? (3-4)
 - A young bear in not so bad a condition (7)
 - Hibernating snake wrapped around shelter (8)
 - A creature the Australian farmer might catch doing havoc (5)



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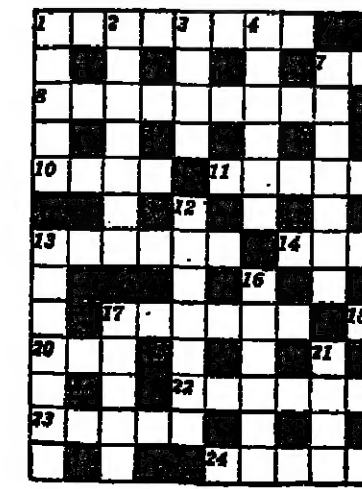
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7 Not interested

8 Permissible

9 Born

10 Enormous

11 Sheep's coat

12 Pink-headed fish

13 Coil-shaped

14 Out-house

15 Irretrievable

16 Wading-bird

17 Unfavourable

18 Shatter violently

19 Municipality

20 Take small bites

21 Wedding-bird

22 Unfavourable

23 Entreat

24 Prudent

25 Allike

26 Restrain

27 Package

28 Move on ice

29 Attire

30 Severe

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dane, 10 Paces, 11 View, 12 Episode,
13 Bid, 14 Spy, 15 Box, 16 Tot,
20 Scratch, 21 Snore, 24 Owner, 25
Overdue, 26 Top hat, 27 Holly,
28 Wrist, 29 Remorse, 2 Venue, 3 Road,
5 Explicit, 6 A la mode, 7 Elevate,
8 Vexed, 13 Hyattaria, 15 Parsimon,
17 Escort, 18 Turb, 19 Benedy, 22
Model, 23 Machi.

BE WRECK-LESS

DRIVE SAFELY

Dire warnings bring on the 'bears'

TEL AVIV. — The share market, which since January advanced by 30 per cent, sputtered yesterday as the "bears" awakened from their long hibernation. This was not a case of conventional profit-taking, but a market that became jittery in the aftermath of some gloomy predictions.

Prominent among the southerners were the Minister of Industry and Trade, Gideon Pat, and Aharon Meir, the Mizrahi Bank's general manager. Both warned the public about market excesses and pointed out that there was no real basis for the recent market run-up. It seems that the warnings were enough to start speculators running for the sidelines.

Actually, the day's action, which saw the General Share Index fall by 2.75 per cent, was readily understandable. In the general advance since the beginning of the year, there were more than a few issues whose price doubled. It was difficult to blame anyone who wanted to pocket his profits in these shares.

"Sellers only" situations outpaced "buyers only" by 32 to 25. In addition, the heavy losses, that is securities whose price declined by more than five per cent, were ahead of major winners by 69 to 62.

Bank shares part of the "agreement" were mainly unchanged. United Mizrahi was down by two per cent.

Other bank shares came under fire and lost part of their recent sharp gains. The shares of FIBI and Bank of the First International were down by nearly 10 per cent.

The shares of the Maritime Bank continued to be under selling pressure, but their price remained unchanged.

Yesterday was certainly a day when even the best of news had little effect on shares. Superanal announced sparkling financial results for fiscal 1983, but its shares declined by 4.3 and 1.4 per cent, respectively. (Story on page 6.)

The only exception to this was the action of the Israel Corporation shares. Both of these were "buyers only." The Eisenberg group's assumption of effective control of the IC apparently was positively received. An accountant suggested that according to his calculations the Israel Corporation 1 share has a value of 1,300. This was based on the evaluation of the

Tel Aviv Stock Exchange

By JOSEPH MORGENSTERN

Israel Corporation at some \$102 million, the price paid by the Eisenberg group in its deal with the United Mizrahi Bank.

The turnover of just under IS882 million was nearly identical to that of Sunday.

The index-linked bond market was mostly stable, with some upside movement. Turnovers fell to IS508m.

The shekel was devalued by the relatively moderate margin of 26 agorot. It has been suggested that since the anticipated index for February is 12-13 per cent, the Treasury will probably begin to speed up the rate of devaluation as we move towards the end of the month. So far the rate of devaluation this month has been less than half of the anticipated rate of inflation. It will be recalled that the Treasury has clearly stated that it will be a matter of policy to match the rate of devaluation to the rate of inflation.

In mortgage bank share trading the trend was for lower prices. Tefahot ordinary and preferred tumbled by 10 per cent. Profit-takers hit Mortgage and Development, both the bearer and registered shares, for 10 per cent falls.

In the specialized financial institution group prices remained mostly on an even keel. The Agricultural Bank shares however, were clipped for a 10 per cent loss.

The insurance group was the only one to come through with a gain. Aryeh was on the "buyers only" list. The Ararat shares were both "buyers only." However, a number of the issues absorbed losses. Yardeni-0.5 and Securitas were both down by 10 per cent.

The service and trade group was moderately lower. Delek was on the "sellers only" list. Niku Computers was 10 per cent lower while the 5 shares edged by 5.2 per cent. Ya'ane Computers returned to winning ways and advanced by 8.1 per cent.

Land development, real estate

and citrus plantation shares were on the downside. Property Building, which recently experienced a major run-up, was hit for a 10 per cent loss. Darad continued to be active and gained 15.1 per cent. Menrav, however, was 15 per cent to the good while its option soared by 30 per cent.

Industrials were broadly lower. Research and development company issues were especially hard hit and on a group basis declined by 6.2 per cent.

Elbit was unchanged, while Elron, the parent company, saw its shares fall by 5.1 per cent. Clal Electronics was 6.3 per cent lower. Ariz was fractionally higher. T.A.T. 1 was unchanged.

Agan Chemicals was 10 per cent lower, as was the case with Dexter Chemicals. Fertilizer 0.1 moved against the trend and was 8.7 per cent higher. Petrochemicals was 10.2 per cent lower. Frutarom was a full per cent lower.

Clal Industries fell by 9.4 per cent and thus mostly wiped out Sunday's sharp advance. Technological Resources was "sellers only."

Investment company shares were also lower. Discount Investments registered eased by 6.1 per cent, while the bearer shares were down by 10 per cent.

Piryon, in spite of being a shareholder in the Israel Corporation, saw its shares trade unchanged. Zik 5 was "sellers only" for the second time and will trade today without any price restraints. Offis options, Attas, Ararat 0.5 and Lumir 1 will also trade without price restraints. However, these shares traded yesterday as "buyers only" for the second consecutive session.

Most active stocks
Lumi 2070 146,251.7m. n.c.
Hapolim 3260 55,067.9m. n.c.
IDB 4790 36,469.5m. n.c.
Shares traded: 15,888.7m.
Convertibles: 18,132.2m.
Bonds: 15,508.5m.

Bank of Israel Exchange Rates

February 20, 1984

Currency	IS
U.S. dollar	130.81
British sterling	188.85
German mark	48.619
French franc	15.771
Dutch guilder	43.079
Swiss franc	59.411
Swedish krona	16.386
Norwegian krone	17.067
Danish krone	13.320
Finnish mark	22.671
Canadian dollar	104.77
Australian dollar	123.44
South African rand	106.66
Belgian franc (10)	23.749
Austrian schilling (10)	68.947
Italian lire (100)	76.628
Japanese yen (100)	78.000
Irish pound	149.91
Spanish peseta (100)	85.091
Jordanian dinar	347.95
Lebanese lira	21.360
Egyptian pound	113.80

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AMERICAN ISRAEL BANK LTD.
FOREIGN CURRENCY 20.2.84
Yesterday's foreign exchange rates against the Israeli Shekel, for U.S. dollar transactions under \$3,000 and transactions of other currencies under the equivalent of \$500.

FOREIGN CURRENCY	20.2.84
USS	131.6212 129.9985
Sterling	190.0610 187.7178
DM	48.9118 48.3086
French FR	15.8996 15.6738
Dutch G	43.2449 42.7908
Swiss FR	59.6821 58.9862
Swedish KR	16.3301 16.3263
Norwegian KR	17.1828 16.9710
Danish KR	13.4239 13.2583
Finnish MK	22.8192 22.5377
Canadian S	105.4319 104.1320
Australian S	124.3823 122.8290
Rand	107.2515 105.9292
Belgian Con (10)	23.7491 23.8189
Belgian Fr (10)	23.1422 22.8568
Austrian S (10)	69.4571 68.5823
Yen (100)	78.3393 78.0077
Italian Lire (1000)	78.1488 78.1710

SPOT RATES:		
USS	1.4450/50	per S
DM	2.8975/85	per S
Swiss FR	2.1992/02	per S
French FR	8.2790/20	per S
Italian Lire	1.681.5000	per S
Dutch G	3.0325/40	per S
Yen	233.28/40	per S
Danish KR	9.8078/28	per S
Norwegian KR	7.6575/66	per S
Swedish KR	7.9825/97	per S
Belgian Con	55.05/07	per S

FORWARD RATES:
1 mos. 1.4457/58 1.4475/76
3 mos. 2.5794/99 2.5814/15
6 mos. 2.1874/78 2.1893/92 2.1904/22

Commercial Banks

Bank	Price	Volume	Change
OHK	1850	8	-90
Maritime 0.1	127	4906	n.c.
Maritime 0.5	276	7340	n.c.
N. American 1	5622	71	-90
N. American 5	4000	306	-185
N. Am. on 1	2890	88	-80
Danot 1	650	151	-51
Danot 5	127	6436	-12
Danot 5.2	361	512	-21
First Int'l 5	335	4421	-59
FIBI	427	6055	-45

Bank	Price	Volume	Change
IDB	110000	552	n.c.
Des. Mortgage	4790	43	-40
IDB p A	5150	2	n.c.
IDB p B	29200	n.c.	n.c.
IDB on 11	3680	99	-20
Union 0.1	2570	72	n.c.
Discount B r	6200	7	n.c.
Discount A r	6160	159	n.c.
Discount on 2	5100	12	n.c.
Discount B on	730	70	n.c.
Mizrahi r	1980	1098	-40
Mizrahi b	1980	43	-40
Mizrahi on 11	3640	119	n.c.
Mizrahi on 12	1350	240	-30
Mizrahi on 6	17000	4	-400
Mizrahi on 9	400	243	n.c.
Hapolim p	4180	n.c.	-2.8
Hapolim b	3260	1699	n.c.
Hapolim on 8	13000	52	-500
General A	9000	52	-500
General on 8	7000	2	-300
General on 9	6360	1	-130
General on 7	2070	7065	-20
Lumi on 1	2900	42	+50
Lumi on 11	781	327	n.c.
Finance Trade 1	2870	63	n.c.
Finance Trade 5	1152	23	-13
Finance Trade 10	3700	1	n.c.

Bank	Price	Volume	Change
Adanim 0.1	1330	46	-121
Gen. Mortgage	1476	25	n.c.
Gen. Mortgage	1476	n.c.	n.c.
Gen. Mortgage	1230	90	-50
Carmel on	800	80	-3.9
Carmel deb	180	501	n.c.
Binay	1109	47	+101
De-Mortgage r	631	462	-70
De-Mortgage b	640	112	-71
De-Mort. op	555	50	-55
Mishkan r	3570	9	n.c.
Independence	2230	14	n.c.
Tefahot p r	1395	193	-155
Tefahot p b	1341	199	-10
Tefahot d 1	634	27	-40
Tefahot deb. 2	235	349	-33
Yajour 1	410	159	-10
Yajour 5	380	156	-10
Yajour on	248	9	-33
Merav 1	345	846	n.c.

Bank	Price	Volume	Change
Shilon r	175	s.o.i.	-9
Shilon on B	1178	n.c.	-62
Shilon on B	1619	n.c.	-1800
Agumilure A	11900	n.c.	-1000
Agumilure B	911	90	n.c.
Lumi Ind r	911	4	-7
Lumi Ind b	911	4	-7
De-Mortgage r	9735	3	n.c.
De-Mortgage b	31200	n.c.	-10
De-Mortgage c	18010	n.c.	-10
De-Mortgage d	16500	n.c.	-10
De-Mortgage e	5303	n.c.	-10
De-Mortgage f	426	322	n.c.
De-Mortgage g	12714	n.c.	-10
Clal Lease 0.1	426	235	+11
Clal Lease 0.2	319	191	-8
Clal Lease deb.	318	38	n.c.

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Adar-18, 5744 • Jamadi Awwal 18, 1404

Budget of failure

TOMORROW, at long last, and barring last-minute delays, the Treasury will table the 1984 budget in the Knesset.

Appropriations amounting to the staggering total of more than \$4.3 trillion — a trillion is a figure with 12 zeroes — will then be rushed through the legislature at a speed that should make serious deliberation impossible even if the budget deserved it. In reality, the set of expenditure programmes placed before the House is a budget in name only.

The Treasury has in the present budget introduced the innovation of a quarterly adjustment of the appropriations, taking into account the actual rate of inflation, the volume of government revenues, and the level of economic activity and unemployment.

In practice, this means that there is no budget for fiscal 1984. What purports to be a budget is in fact an admission that under existing conditions the government cannot plan its expenditures for more than three months ahead. Commitments for more than three months — in reality, for an average of six weeks — will be ruled out. How government departments that administer activities which are typically long-term are going to function is anybody's guess, including that of the responsible ministers.

The stipulation that expenditures for each coming quarter are to be adjusted according to the rate of inflation in the preceding three months is a confession that inflation has already run out of control, or may do so in the course of 1984. True, there will be a benchmark — average expenditure on each item in 1983, multiplied by a factor of 2.3 — but that will not be binding.

Another confession of defeat is the adjustment of expenditures to the volume of government revenues. It means that the Treasury not only admits that its tax administration has broken down, but also that it can neither predict the level of economic activity, which is the main determinant of the volume of government receipts from taxes, nor the rate of savings, which determines how much the government can borrow from the public.

If these first two criteria of adjusting the budget are designed to make the level of government spending move with the business cycle, then the third criterion, which takes account of the depth of recession and unemployment, sounds as a piece of counter-cyclical policy. If economic activity falls too much, and unemployment rises, the government will step up its spending.

Clearly, this third criterion is the opposite of the first two. The Treasury adopted it to pacify the few cabinet members who objected to the plan for quarterly adjustments. In agreeing to this so-called budget, however, these cabinet members must have overlooked the fact that the addition of the third criterion in practice leaves the level of government spending totally to the discretion of the Treasury.

Any doubt that this is so should have been removed by the Treasury's strenuous objection to debating the quarterly adjustments in the cabinet. The Treasury's budget revisions will go directly to the Knesset Finance Committee, where it will be easier to steamroll them through by relying on coalition discipline, than to expose them to the wrangling in the cabinet.

The government, in other words, will be bypassed. In reality, this is hardly likely to work, and cabinet members can safely be expected to go on wrangling with the Treasury over appropriations as before, except that they will do it not only every three months, but throughout the year. But their very agreement to a procedure that eliminates one of the central functions of the cabinet — collective policy debate — is a confession of failure that has few comparisons.

Tribute to a peacekeeper

THE LATE Leamon R. Hunt was hardly a household name to most Israelis. But that attests to his modesty and the quiet, businesslike way he went about his work as director-general of the Multinational Force and Observers in Sinai.

Last week, in Rome, he was wantonly slain by peace-hating terrorists. Today, he is to be buried in his home country, A U.S. State Department officer with a distinguished record in administration, Hunt more than anyone was responsible for the success of the peacekeeping operation in Sinai.

Legally, founding the force was an act of creation *ex nihilo* — for the MFO was to be an international effort not within the framework of the United Nations. (Soviet opposition put paid to hopes of a UN force for Sinai.)

But the novelty of the venture did not prevent Hunt, strongly backed by his government, from enlisting ten contingents, from widely disparate countries, to the MFO. It was perhaps the best measure of his success that he was on the point of concluding agreements with all of the contributing countries to extend their periods of service when he was assassinated. Not a single contributing country has withdrawn from the force since its establishment, and there are good prospects that all will agree to extend their commitments.

In Sinai itself, Hunt's natural qualities of leadership enabled him, together with the MFO's military commander, to weld the force into a compact and effective monitoring operation on the ground, at sea, and in the air. Here the obvious yardstick of Hunt's achievement is the general satisfaction which both Israel and Egypt have frequently expressed over the work of the MFO.

In this area, at least, under the aegis of MFO personnel, relations between the two sides have been consistently good, and the atmosphere has been of problem-solving rather than problem-exacerbating.

Israel, and no doubt Egypt too, would have wanted to see Leamon Hunt stay at his post, dedicated to his peacekeeping, for much longer. But his achievements during the crucial, formative period of the MFO built up the confidence and effectiveness that are the tangible assets of this unique peacekeeping institution.

Continued observance by Israel and Egypt of the Sinai peace provisions will be the truest epitaph to this fine and devoted international civil servant.

A piece of advice

By YITZHAK TAUB

ISRAELI SECURITIES legislation is about to be amended according to statements by Finance Minister Yigal Cohen-Orad.

His main interest lies with orderly management of the securities market and demonetization of the voting rights of shareholders. At present the owners of enterprises (shareholders) have scarcely any influence on management.

I shall not comment here on these ideas before they are produced for public discussion from the Treasury backrooms, where they are being hammered out. But one serious untackled problem which afflicts the fair operation of the financial markets is the deplorable state of the art (or science) of securities advice to the investing public.

Many thousands of people have been ill advised by private "experts" and banking officials specializing in securities, so-called securities advisers. I am not concerned about advice given to and accepted by organizations that should have known better. I am referring to private investors and small entrepreneurs who assumed (mistakenly) that their brokers and/or bankers advise them efficiently and in the clients' best interest. After last year's share debacle followed by the bank share scandal

many people have had second thoughts about the quality of advice they received. Some even think they have been deliberately misled by interested advisers.

They know that the clerks advising them are working for the banks and may not be impartial. And this is an understatement.

LAWYERS WILL tell you that no direct and specific professional responsibility rests on the shoulders of these advisers. General negligence may be claimed if you can prove it through the laws of torts, but I doubt whether these, as far as securities are concerned, are litigable in Israeli courts. So far, nobody has tried to bring a case to court.

Thus one concludes the present system and legal lacunae are to be blamed. The more so as long as banks are *de facto* allowed to monopolize all activities in the Israeli capital markets. If indeed banks dominate and, as some say, manipulate the markets, the more we need independent security analysts and advisers. Advice without responsibility should be forbidden.

It is essential to devise a legal framework that will create a new profession of investment advisers

(and possibly analysts). They should be government licensed after a course of study and qualifying examinations. There should be professional watchdog bodies to deal with investors' complaints of unprofessional and unethical behaviour by advisers. These watchdogs would be subject to review by the courts or at least by the High Court of Justice.

It is important that such advisers, if employed by brokers or banks, should be, and be seen to be, independent. Thus they should not be advising and selling at the same time (as they do today). They should not physically be situated in the securities or investment departments of banks. Their responsibility must be defined not only in administrative terms like disciplinary action by the watchdog committees but also through criminal liability and, of course, personal liability for losses accrued by negligent or illegal personal behaviour.

There should also be some sort of record kept about the advice given and the reasons for it. This would leave to fewer wild speculative investments.

The investing public now deeply mistrusts the financial community because so many people lost money on the innocent notion that they could take their bankers word about

Dry Bones



what is good for their funds. Most people have learned the hard way. Those people who still have money left want to preserve its real value and they are at a loss about how to do it. They need reliable solid advice.

The present law on professional financial advice is inadequate. A change along the lines suggested will help investors create more sophisticated markets, and clear the air — something finance ministers ought to relish.

Need for a primary

By SHEVAH WEISS

Alignment will be ready to face the country.

One of the problems of the Alignment — a problem which since Begin's retirement has been shared by the Likud as well — is what is popularly known as a "leadership crisis."

In the absence of authentic heirs to the leadership one is confronted by leaders whose personal reputation does not correspond with the potential public support for their party.

Thus, the public opinion polls reveal that the potential support for Labour is much higher than support

of the party's chairman, which creates a major credibility gap.

Personally, I am not happy about the populist motifs which have entered every corner of our political life — about the need to take into account who the public's darlings are rather than who would make the best prime minister once one got over the elections hurdle. But it would be utter blindness to disregard the desires of the non-party public.

It is this public, including a fair number of floating voters, that, in the last resort, decides who will set up the government. The question of leadership is one of the important

factors which influence the behaviour of these floaters.

THE PARTY set-ups which today determine the outcome of internal elections within the parties are not necessarily in tune with what the general public feels, and what I propose is a means of bridging the gap between the inclinations of the party machines and the desires of the public.

It is no secret that there is a growing correlation between the Labour Party's support for its chairman and the popularity of his main opponent. I believe that this problem could be resolved by means of the institution of primaries for the election of the party's chairman and its candidate for the premiership.

The elections for the candidate for the premiership and for the party congress could take place

simultaneously, thus saving time and expense. This would certainly encourage people to register in order to have a say in the leadership. The result would be the elected candidate having the authentic support of both the party and those who feel affinity to it. And the estrangement between the party and the general public, which has grown in the last two decades, would diminish.

I think that this is the only fair and decent way out of the problem of leadership contests, and to avoid the "nights of the long knives" which are bound to accompany any new contest — a spectacle which could only harm the party's electoral chances.

Furthermore, since the party, and especially those of its leaders who were once members of Rafi, have been campaigning for a change from proportional representation to a system based on constituencies with personally elected representatives, the institution of primaries would constitute an example of practising what one preaches.

The writer, a Labour MK, teaches political science at Haifa University.

READERS' LETTERS

THE LESSONS OF HISTORY

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post Sir, — I take exception to Reuven Alberg's article "Renunciation of history" (February 12), in which he claims that settling Judea and Samaria denies the lessons of history. In his opinion, most settlers are "imperialist-minded" people and the age of colonialism is over. Surely a teacher of history cannot deny the historic links between the Jewish people and its homeland. Isn't terming idealistic settlers "imperialists" and "colonialists" a gratuitous insult?

The author is right in saying that nationalism has taken the place of colonialism, but does this refer only to Arab nationalism and not to Jewish nationalism?

The security reason for holding on to the territories is not just a figleaf but a very weighty argument. One shudders at the thought of what might happen should we leave the occupied territories and create the conditions for the establishment of an irredentist state, terrorist incursions and foreign military bases.

It is true that the Arabs want more than autonomy, but not every minority in a national state is granted the right of self-determination. Examples abound all over the world. The Arabs have 20 odd states where they exercise full sovereignty, and there is a Palestinian state in all but name on the left bank of the Jordan river.

To compare the Arab-Israeli feud with that between France and Germany or other countries for that matter is to ignore the lessons of history. It took those nations hundreds of years and repeated bloody wars to make peace with each other. The Arabs are as yet at the start of the road and it will take many more years until they reconcile themselves to the idea of a Jewish state in their midst.

Finally, even if, after annexation, we had one third Arabs and two thirds Jews in Israel, that would still constitute a viable Jewish majority. Besides, it is probable that only a small number of the Arabs living in the territories would opt for Israeli citizenship, which should carry with it not only voting rights, but duties as well, such as military or national service.

As for renouncing history, it is actually Mr. Alberg who does so by ignoring the historic yearning of the Jewish people for its native land.

DR. EZRA MENTCHER
Haifa.

THANKS FROM U.S. NAVY

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post Sir, — The U.S. Aircraft Carrier Independence sailed from Haifa, Israel, on the afternoon of December 27, 1983, after a four-day port visit. The crew of almost 5,000 men travelled widely throughout Israel, and each man thoroughly enjoyed his stay. The genuinely warm hospitality of the Israeli people made our stay all the more pleasant.

A single incident best demonstrates the unique concern of the Israeli people for the visiting American sailors. On December 23, OSSN Eugene Van Diver, an Independence sailor, was unfortunately mugged and robbed in Haifa. His wallet and \$60 in cash were stolen. Your newspaper carried the story of the incident on December 25. A private citizen, Mr.

David Trager-Lewis, of Tel Aviv, sought out authorities from the Independence in order to personally provide replacement of the \$60 so that the American sailor's Christmas would not be spoiled.

The generosity of Mr. Trager-Lewis was perhaps the most significant of many similar examples of Israeli hospitality. I extend my personal thanks to Mr. Trager-Lewis and all the Israeli people for a most enjoyable and memorable Christmas visit to your country. We on Independence look forward with eager anticipation to our next opportunity to return to Israel. Shalom.

PRWA. DOUGHERTY JR.,
Captain, U.S. Navy,
Commanding Officer,
USS Independence

PROJECTS FOR ELDERLY

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post Sir, — As a pensioner, I was most interested to read Leah Abramowitz's article, "Giving a helping hand" (Today of January 29) on voluntary projects for the elderly. I myself am a member of WIZO's Golden Age Club in Beit Hakerem, Jerusalem, and I know from my own experience and that of my fellow members how important these services are to help combat the loneliness and inactivity that so often accompany old age.

Our WIZO Golden Age Club is a model one in all respects. It provides us with a warm friendly place where we can spend the best part of every day in congenial company, with numerous opportunities for physical and mental activities and, most important for elderly people (and especially men) coping on their own, a hot lunch for a nominal fee.

We members have become a very close-knit little community and there is a considerable degree of mutual help, both within the club and outside it, including assistance in the framework of the "Elderly for the Elderly" programme mentioned by Leah Abramowitz.

I invite other Jerusalem pensioners to join us at the WIZO Golden Age Club, the Jerusalem Baby Home, Hehalutz St., Beit Hakerem.

As for pensioners in other parts of the country, I would recommend that they contact WIZO-Israel's Department for the Elderly, WIZO House, 38, David Hamelech Blvd., Tel Aviv, Tel. 03-257321, or their local WIZO women's club, to hear about the services WIZO can offer them in their own neighbourhoods. Jerusalem. RUTH ESLOVITZ

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POSTSCRIPTS

PS. KARAN SINGH, the former prince of Kashmir, has staked his claim to what is believed to be the largest jewel find in recent history, worth \$1.4 billion.

Kashmir state officials announced last year that they found gem-studded royal robes, crowns, belts and swords and scores of diamonds, rubies, emeralds and other jewels in an underground vault. The

largest diamond weighs 85 carats.

Karan Singh, a member of the Indian parliament, petitioned the Kashmir High Court to "secure my legal rights and to ensure that these heirlooms are not misappropriated, alienated or disposed of in any manner."

He said the hidden treasure belonged to the Kashmir princely family and had been in use since the 19th century.

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